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Near East & South Asia

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

Refugees in Jordan Express Concerns

94AA0111B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
31 Jul 94 p 2

[Unattributed article: "With Determination of Their Future in Jordan Ignored, Palestinian Refugee Circles are Concerned; PLO Refuses To Naturalize or Resettle Any of Them"]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian refugee circles in Jordan are overwhelmed by anxiety and anticipation over their final status in light of the accelerating developments and successive surprises emanating from the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and the conclusion of the declaration of principles between Jordan and Israel in Washington.

According to undeclared official statistics, Jordanians of Palestinian extraction constitute 75 percent of the total population, amounting to 3.5 million people. This means that those to whom the characterization "refugee" applies exceed 1.5 million people, considering that the number of refugees going to Jordan after 1967 amounts, according to declared official statistics, to nearly 800,000 Palestinian refugees.

This state of anxiety and anticipation has been imposed by the absence of the Palestinian refugee issue from the declaration of principles concluded by Jordan and Israel in Washington, even though the agenda concluded by the two sides on 14 September 1993 included a special item on the refugees at the time, because Jordan is one of the Arab countries concerned with developing a just solution to this problem in accordance with the UN resolutions on the issue.

Informed Palestinian circles in Jordan believe that the Palestinian refugee problem is an Arab problem and an issue that concerns the world community. They also believe that it can be solved only through adherence to UN resolutions, such as General Assembly Resolution 194, and coordination among Arab countries, especially the countries concerned, namely the PLO, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt.

But this rationalization cannot stand fast in the face of given facts of the provision that has dealt with a complex and serious problem, namely the problem of religious custodianship over Islamic holy sites in the city of Jerusalem. This provision has aroused a wave of Palestinian, Islamic, and Arab protests because East Jerusalem is included in Resolution 242. The peace process is based on this resolution which clearly calls for Israel's withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

This being the case, one cannot, according to the same circles, disregard the anxiety that is afflicting Palestinians in Jordan and that can be summed up in the question: What is our future?

Palestinian refugees in Jordan do not want to make the "choice" of either here or there, meaning choose Jordanian citizenship or Palestinian citizenship at a later phase.

Both choices are bitter, according to a popular political Palestinian figure in Jordan who has said, "This solution is vague, and because it is vague, it is rejected. At best, it circumvents our rights to our land and our homeland and it offers Israel an easy solution that spares it the burdens of its responsibilities toward us, considering that it is the party responsible for expelling us from our lands."

This figure added, "Just as we refuse to have our problem solved as a problem of refugees in Jordan or in any other Arab or foreign country, we also refuse to cede our rights and refuse to have our issue resolved in the West Bank or Gaza because we have spent 45 years building in Jordan."

"To me, Amman is, in this case, the same as Jerusalem or Ramallah if I cannot return to al-Ramlah, the city that was occupied in 1948. Moreover, Amman is better if I cannot return to al-Ramlah. I may accept the fait accompli here and may refuse to begin a new journey of building outside al-Ramlah, even in a Palestinian city in the West Bank."

This Palestinian figure also said, "Therefore, I reject the bartering this for that and I cling to the right to return to al-Ramlah. This right, if achieved, equals the cost of sacrificing my gains anywhere in the world, even in Amman, where my children and grandchildren were born, where I started in a tattered tent, and where I have ended owning, along with my children, a number of apartment buildings and economic interests."

A prominent PLO official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that it is a Palestinian national taboo for a party to try to develop a solution to the refugee problem from its own perspective, regardless of whether it is a political, security, or demographic perspective and regardless of whether the solution is optional or compulsory. This is because the refugee problem is an Arab problem and it cannot be solved except through adherence to UN resolutions and through coordination among the Arab countries. Moreover, it is a Palestinian problem connected with a recognized political authority, namely the PLO, which is the Arab Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

The Palestinian official added that the PLO, through self-rule, is not oblivious to the stability and security of the Palestinian people wherever they may be and that "we must not ignore our people's daily problems in all parts of the world." He stressed that the Palestinian refugees' right to repatriation is a right guaranteed by the United Nations. Host Arab countries must adhere to this right that belongs to their Palestinian guests. Moreover, the PLO is opposed to the resettlement or naturalization of any Palestinian in these countries. Any issue concerning Palestinians in the Arab countries must be coordinated between the Arab countries concerned and the PLO, in its capacity as the Palestinian people's legitimate representative, granted by a succession of Arab League resolutions.

Six Joint Arab Companies Established

94AA0111A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
12 Aug 94 p 10

[Article by Yusuf Shakir: "Establishment of Six Joint Palestinian-Arab Companies With Capital of \$100 Million"]

[Text] Cairo—Palestinian and Arab businessmen have taken steps to establish six companies in the West Bank and Gaza with a capital of \$100 million to operate in the cement, construction, and food industries, and in transportation.

The list of companies planned to be established includes two cement companies with a capital of more than \$55 million—\$35 million is for the Palestinian Cement Company in the Gaza Strip, and \$20 million is for another company that is being established.

Also being founded are: a company for construction industries, with a capital of \$8 million; a company called Henoblock [name as transliterated], with a capital of \$25 million; and a company for food industries and agricultural materials, with a capital of \$3 million. Negotiations are underway to establish the first Palestinian transportation company with a capital of \$50 million. The company is to acquire 50 trucks to be used in export and import activities and in boosting Palestinian trade with neighboring countries.

Dr. 'Atif 'Alawinah, coordinator of the Palestinian economic teams, has said that the Palestinian authorities are giving top priority to construction projects and related activities in the current phase, all of which require an infrastructure in order to attract capital and to set up industrial, tourist, agricultural, and developmental projects. He pointed out that the housing sector is receiving the greatest attention, especially since one needs to build nearly 100,000 housing units in the West Bank and Gaza annually to absorb repatriated Palestinians.

Dr. 'Alawinah also pointed out that the authorities plan to open communication, transportation, postal, and even water and electricity projects to private sector investment and that they seek to repatriate Palestinian capital from the diaspora so it can be invested in development projects at home.

He added that several steps will be taken to encourage incoming capital investment in the national industry through customs facilities; by supplying projects with the infrastructure services that they need, such as water, electricity, transportation, communications, and banking services; and by concluding trade accords that permit investors to export their products to Arab and foreign capitals. 'Alawinah further pointed out that the Palestinian authorities are moving at various levels in the current phase, most significantly at the level of boosting foreign trade, considering that Israel controls nearly 91 percent of Palestinian imports. The authorities are also moving to improve employment conditions, because unemployment has reached 51 percent, and to reconsider the issue of permits, which are exploited by the Israeli authorities to obstruct and freeze development projects in the Palestinian territories.

'Alawinah further said that shares offered for subscription by the Palestine Investment Company, exceeding 2,000 shares valued at \$100,000 per share, have been fully covered. He noted that this company plans to contribute 49

percent of the capital for numerous Palestinian economic projects and that it has launched official negotiations to participate in several projects connected with industry, communications, distribution and marketing, and foreign oil and cement imports. The negotiations are also connected with financing housing sector projects and developing the banking apparatus. The company further plans to attract Palestinian capital from abroad and to invest it in economic sectors.

Dr. 'Alawinah added that Palestinian authorities are negotiating with the authorities concerned in Egypt and Jordan regarding lists of commodities that are planned to be imported directly. These lists consist of 80 commodities, including electrical products and appliances, foodstuffs, such as sugar and rice, and oil and cement. He expects that these commodities will be exempted from taxes, excluding a 15-percent value-added tax. Dr. 'Alawinah noted that other import lists, including goods essential for development, such as agricultural machinery and industrial equipment, will be imported in accordance with European standards.

He added that the Palestinian economy needs resources to finance investment projects in the various areas, because the revenue of the income tax existing currently is inadequate, keeping in mind that the income tax includes six brackets, beginning with 8 percent for people with an income of [no] more than \$200 and 49 percent for people with an increase exceeding \$1,000 [monthly].

He added that donor countries participating in the Washington meeting have paid just \$90 million out of a total of \$2.4 billion allocated to finance Palestinian projects in 1993 and 1994, keeping in mind that the Palestinian economy requires \$11.2 billion to meet its needs until the year 2000.

The Palestinian official has denied the presence of any obstacles that impede implementation of the joint economic accord with Egypt, saying that an executive program for this plan is scheduled to be drafted in the next few weeks.

'Alawinah further said that Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, currently being hosted by Cairo, have led to a near final accord on the transfer of jurisdiction in the areas of education, health, social affairs, and tourism, and that the accord includes executive and financial arrangements and regulations governing these sectors.

Statistics on Agricultural Workforce

94AA0112A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
27 Jul 94 p 10

[Text] Jerusalem—A researcher at the Agricultural Data Base of the Arab Intellectual Club, headquartered in East Jerusalem, has asserted that 9.5 percent of the total workforce in West Bank cities and in the Gaza Strip, 3 percent of the West Bank rural workforce, and 1 percent of the workforce in the Gaza Strip refugee camps is less than 16 years old.

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Nizam Mustafa 'Ataya, the researcher, said that the study he has supervised is a comprehensive study that has dealt with the dimensions and givens concerning population, workforce, income, and consumption in the occupied territories.

This study constitutes an important reference for the coming phase, considering that it contains confirmed figures on the Palestinian educational and labor situation.

Figures in this study show that 11.9 percent of the Palestinian urban population, 4.4 percent of the Palestinian rural population, and 4.8 percent of the refugee camp inhabitants who work in Israel have not received any education.

The percentage of Palestinians working in Israel who have earned a high school certificate or a higher degree is 9.6 percent for urban workers, 7.7 percent for rural workers, and 19 percent for workers from the camps.

The Arab Intellectual Club study also touches on the agricultural sector workforce, noting that male workers in the 21-40 year age category in Jericho and in the Jordan Valley area constitute 55.5 percent of the total number of workers in the area. This confirms that it is essential that the Palestinian authority devote attention to developing the Palestinian agricultural sector, especially in the Jericho area.

It is worth noting here that the said study has shown high percentages of agricultural workers in other areas, ranging from 52.9 percent in the Hebron area, 31.5 percent in the Jerusalem area, 47.2 percent in the Ramallah area, 37.1 percent in the Tulkarm area, to 54.9 percent in the Gaza Strip.

Report on Agriculture Sector Needs

94AA00112B London AL-SHARQ AL-4WSAT
in Arabic 12 Aug 94 p 10

[Article by Mahmud Abu-'Id: "Sum of \$80 Million Urgently Needed To Restore Balance to West Bank and Gaza Strip Agricultural Sector"]

[Text] Jerusalem—Experts have set the capital needed to restore balance to the occupied territories' agricultural sector at \$80 million, in addition to the loans to rebuild the infrastructure.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip agricultural sector constitutes 25 percent of the GNP of the two regions, estimated at \$2.7 billion.

The roots of the Palestinian people's present and, especially, of their new future must inevitably be tied to the past—which, in this case, is an Israeli occupation that has lasted 27 years. But the Palestinian agricultural sector has grown in a distorted manner throughout these years.

Palestinian agricultural experts sum up the features and particulars of the Palestinian agricultural situation as follows:

First, the Palestinian agricultural sector has developed in the area of vegetable cultivation, relying on sophisticated irrigation and on modern methods of utilization of land (which has diminished greatly as a result of Israel's seizure of thousands of donums).

The vegetables sector has prospered greatly as a result of the use of hot houses or plastic-covered cultivation. Acreage cultivated by the hot-house method in the Gaza Strip alone has amounted to 10,000 donums, according to a statement made last week by Ahmad Isma'il, the representative of farmers and livestock breeders in the Gaza Strip.

With this development, the Palestinian farmer has suffered from a large crop surplus that is difficult to market. It can be said that this growth has also been experienced by the egg- and meat-producing chicken sector.

Second, in contrast with the growth of vegetable cultivation, especially in the Gaza Strip and Agur [name as transliterated], there has been a severe decline in fruit tree and red meat production, especially lamb and beef, as well as in fish production.

This situation has led to the occupied territories' almost complete reliance on Israel to meet their needs, especially for fruits and red meats.

Third, as a result of the two aforementioned factors, the Israeli occupation has also worked to weaken and marginalize the possibility of developing an agro-industry, especially in areas with abundant crops. Statistics published by Palestinian agricultural establishments operating in the occupied territories confirm that there are no more than five food plants for a population of nearly two million people. (In the West Bank, there is a pickle plant, two plants for cheese and milk derivatives, a plant for carbonated beverages, and one for non-carbonated beverages).

Palestinian agricultural experts' conclusions and analyses agree with the study conducted by the World Bank on the conditions of the Palestinian agricultural sector during the occupation years. In that study, the bank too relied on statistical figures and facts supplied by the Israeli departments of the civil administration, by the Israeli Central Statistics Department, and by other establishments.

Figures highlighted by the World Bank's study are that only 4.8 percent of the West Bank lands, with a total area of 5.8 million donums, are irrigable and that only 1.5 million donums of the total are irrigated. In the Gaza Strip, where the total [cultivable] area is 360,000 donums, the total area of cultivated land does not exceed 165,000 donums, of which no more than two-thirds are irrigated, at the most.

Relying on these figures, the World Bank believes that cultivable land in the occupied territories has diminished since 1967 and that agricultural activity has decreased for various reasons, most significantly because of land confiscation for military reasons, because crops do not cover production costs, or because of scarcity of water resources. Varied military policies have been practiced with the objective of turning Palestinian arable land into barren fallow land.

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Within this context, Dr. Samir al-Barghuthi, director of the United Agricultural Company, believes that Israel's policy throughout the past 27 years has focused on converting the agricultural sector into a sector that depends on Israel to meet its needs, especially its structural needs, such as seed, water, and chemicals.

Dr. al-Barghuthi has said, "The implementation of this policy has been helped by the development of the Israeli agricultural sector and its attainment of an international technological standard, especially in the primary area of expansion of crop cultivation and production."

He added, "The problem of the Palestinian agricultural sector during these years has been embodied in a big production surplus in some branches and a severe shortage in some other branches. This explains why this sector is characterized ultimately by imbalance and distortion."

Al-Barghuthi also believes that the problems created by the Israeli occupation in the face of the agricultural sector's development, whether by land confiscation or by seizure of water resources, are fatal problems that have led to the decline of the tendency to invest in the agricultural sector.

Under the umbrella of this situation, the biggest problem facing the Palestinian agricultural sector surfaces when one talks about the military restrictions and orders imposed by Israel on the Palestinian farmer in the import and export areas.

In the import area, Israel imposed restrictions that have led to importing 90 percent of the Palestinian farmer's needs either from or through Israel.

In the export area, Palestinian agricultural production has been prohibited from reaching foreign markets, excluding Jordan, except through Israeli companies and only in quantities determined by these companies.

In its study on markets available to Palestinian agricultural products, the World Bank believes that the past 25 years have seen a decline in marketing crops outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, the new phase on which the Middle East region has embarked must leave its positive imprints on the Palestinian agricultural sector, provided a strategic Palestinian policy is established in this context.

Palestinian agricultural experts believe that Palestinian agricultural strategy must take the following tendencies into consideration:

First, enhance the proportion of crops exported to Arab and European markets, especially crops producing a surplus. This necessarily dictates investment in the infrastructure needed for export and in data centers concerned with foreign markets.

Second, invest in sectors needed by the occupied territories, especially in production of red meat, in enhanced utilization of fish resources, and in cultivation of fruit trees.

Third, investment in food industries, especially in the Gaza Strip and in Agur.

Fourth, ensure the success of a short-term strategic Palestinian plan. This means basically that it is necessary to develop a financial system that secures financial resources for agricultural investment. Numerous experts assert that it is necessary to establish a long-term loan system for farmers so as to help them develop an advanced agricultural system. One of these experts has set the capital needed to restore balance to the agricultural sector in the next three years at \$80 million, plus the allocation of specific and clear-cut budgets by the Palestinian authority from loans granted to this authority to build an infrastructure for the agricultural sector (agricultural roads, water resources, agricultural development research centers).

Fifth, the Palestinian farmer should be led in the direction of producing agricultural crops capable of competing in world markets, both in quality and in price.

The slogan "agricultural revolution," raised by Palestinian Chairman Yasir 'Arafat upon his arrival in the self-rule area, has been received with interest by numerous Palestinian experts, many of whom believe that this slogan is attainable in some areas, especially if realistic plans are made for it. However, the Israeli-Palestinian economic accord limits these possibilities.

Palestinian experts have made observations on the crux of this accord, especially its agricultural aspect which sets a quota for some Palestinian agricultural products, particularly products of which the Palestinian market has a big surplus, such as vegetables, chickens, and eggs. On the other hand, this accord has set no quota for any Israeli agricultural product.

In the same vein, the accord has not enlarged the margin of Palestinian importation of agricultural production requirements. Moreover, even though the accord speaks fundamentally of an open market between the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the one hand and Israel on the other, it makes no reference to the Palestinian market's role in the economic accords that Israel concludes with international economic blocs.

Regardless of these observations, the major challenge facing Palestinians continues to pivot around the possibility of developing the agricultural sector in the same manner as the other economic sectors.

ALGERIA

Paris: Islamists Held; Sahraoui's Reaction

94AF0276B Algiers EL WATAN in French
11 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by Lotfi Amara: "Ex-FIS (Islamic Salvation Front) Terrorism; France in a State of Alert"—first paragraph is EL WATAN introduction]

[Text] Continued pressure has been applied on Islamist circles in France for almost one week. We have lost count of arrests and identity checks, and "they will continue," Mr. Pasqua, the French minister of interior, stated. Dissidents

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[sic] of the banned party abroad do not conceal their anxiety concerning the internationalization of the crisis.

The reconciliation of the American and French points of view, although they still differ in many respects, is not to the taste of Anouar Haddam, who claimed that part of the French political class "wants to get France involved in the Algerian crisis, not as part of the solution, but as part of the problem, and thus attempts to internationalize the crisis." According to him, France ought to review its strategy and stop its economic aid. Haddam went on to state that "the future FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] government will take into consideration the present attitude of western countries..."

The French authorities' answer to these threats was to place another six Islamists under forced residence yesterday; they joined the 17 already at Folembay, in northern France. These activists are under an order of deportation and must find a host country on their own.

As it refused to yield to blackmail, Paris intends also to keep a watchful eye on the Islamists, one week after the start of the crisis between France and Algerian fundamentalists.

The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the armed branch of the ex-FIS, threatened France with retaliation if it "did not release immediately" the Folembay detainees. Speaking of these detainees, Mr. Pasqua stated that "most of them are active militants with direct links to the FIS and other fundamentalist movements which, under present circumstances, represent a threat for us." Their placement under forced residence, he added, "constitutes a signal to all those who might be tempted to abuse our hospitality. No one has the right to attack French laws and France's internal security, and these people did just that." The spokeswoman for the Algerian government, Mrs. Leila Aslaoui, said that she was pleased with the French Government's firm position toward Islamists residing in France.

She also stated that "recent anti-French events in Algeria should make us aware of what these criminals would have done to Algeria if they had won the second round of the elections."

This was the first time that an Algerian politician used this term to qualify the FIS. Concerning the organization of the next elections, the spokeswoman stated "that the elections will take place when political stability and law and order have been restored, and it is not possible to set a date."

The police operation that started on Tuesday at 0700 resulted in 2,562 identity checks and 1,345 vehicle checks; 53 people were taken to the police station and 34 were handed over to the criminal investigation department, in addition to the 23 who were placed under forced residence.

It was probably partisan intransigence that caused Abdelbaki Sahraoui, founding member of the ex-FIS and honorary president of the executive branch of the Islamic movement abroad, to come out. Thus, according to him, the FIS and the AIS do not wish to extend the conflict to French territory, which never was the mujahidin's target.

Blowing hot and cold, he recalled in his communique that himself and the armed branch of his party condemned and disapproved of the assassinations that affected the French community in Algeria. Wishing to calm people down, while not denying the threats made by the AIS to obtain the release "of the brothers placed under forced residence," the sheik wanted to look peaceable and stated that "defense must take place strictly within the framework of French laws." The sheik has changed his tune.

Awareness at Last!

The former French minister of foreign affairs, Claude Cheysson, believes that "fundamentalists are declaring war on us," and supports the Algerian policy of the present rightist government against the previous leftist policy. "We must help the Algerian Government, no matter what we think of the current government; at a time when the Islamists want Algeria to withdraw into itself, we must maintain and multiply our contacts with that country." Not being too particular about details, he added: "The fundamentalists are declaring war on us, we must fight them. A dialogue under these conditions is now out of the question, and our answer can only be brutal."

For his part, Roland Dumas, he too a former French minister of foreign affairs, stated that "we must beware of weakening the present Algerian government," while estimating that the French policy toward Algeria had "branched off."

Fearing the impact of these operations on the Maghreb community, which is essentially Algerian, the national secretary of the French Communist Party (PCF), Mr. Robert Hue, estimated that "we should most firmly condemn the terrorist violence of fundamentalist armed groups, while nevertheless making sure that we do not drift into racism, or confuse them with the Maghreb community in France as a whole," and he emphasized that "we must not help the Algerian Government blindly." For its part, the association to promote immigrant integration, Democratia, denounced the state of psychosis that prevails in France and warned the government against any tendentious drift of the Maghreb community.

"There is a risk of extremist attacks in France, and Paris should have the dual policy of distancing itself both from the Algerian Government and from the Islamic Salvation Front," Mr. Deniau, vice president of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the National Assembly (Chamber of Deputies), stated for his part.

The assistant general secretary of the RPR [Rally for the Republic], Jean-Louis Debré, judged that the French government's policy toward the Algerian government was realistic and in line with French interests.

Zitouni's Role in Killing French Nationals

94AF0276D Algiers EL WATAN in French
11 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Assassination of the Five Frenchmen; Author Identified"]

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[Text] The main author and instigator of the assassination of the five French nationals last Wednesday at Dely-Ibrahim (Algiers governorate), was identified, the security departments announced yesterday.

He is Zitouni Djamel, 26, a militant of the ex-FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and leader of an armed group operating essentially in Birkhadem and the surrounding area, the same sources indicated.

According to the first findings of the investigation, Zitouni, heading a GIA [Armed Islamic Group] "death commando," kept his nerve when he faced the two French gendarmes on guard duty at Ain-Allah, eight days ago, last Wednesday at 0715. Speaking excellent French, he told them that he and his group were "Algerian gendarmes" and had them open the residence main gate.

He then tricked a third French gendarme into asking someone inside to open the door of the main building, the key to which he did not have. As soon as the door was open, Zitouni ordered the execution of the gendarme as well as that of Armand Bard, the employee of the embassy's treasury office who had come to open the door, and that of vice consul Michel Toureille who had joined the group a few seconds earlier on his way to work.

At the same time, Zitouni's accomplices executed the two gendarmes who were on guard duty at the gate, after forcing them to kneel in the sentry box with their hands crossed behind their necks. After backing up a Nissan Patrol loaded with several kilos of explosives and a timer set at 30 minutes into the lobby of the building, the group left the premises in two other vehicles: a Golf that belonged to them and the embassy car abandoned by vice consul Toureille.

The bomb was defused by the national gendarmerie which was alerted by residents and immediately came on location.

Djamel Zitouni is the suspect in the assassination of two other French nationals, last March: industrialist Roger-Michel Drouaire and his son Pascal-Valery, who had their throats cut at their domicile in Birkhadem. He is also suspected of being the author of the shooting attack against the Koussieria restaurant of the Algiers zoo, last 11 July, in which four people were killed, two of them citizens of the former Yugoslavia.

He is also said to have contemplated assassinating political party leaders, including Said Sadi, general secretary of the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD).

Batna: 'Center' for Clandestine Trafficking

94AF0276E Algiers LE MATIN in French
11 Aug 94 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Batna, Transportation Situation: When 'Clandestine' Transportation Becomes Widespread..."—first paragraph is LE MATIN introduction]

[Text] For several years, "clandestine" transportation in Batna has been spreading to the entire governorate; it has

considerably increased in recent months due to the authorities' tolerance, going everywhere in Algeria, and recently to neighboring Maghreb countries: Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania, and even all the way to Niger, a major supplier of American cigarettes which are traded for powder milk, oil, semolina, flour, etc.

In greater Batna, in all neighborhoods, lines of cars are parked, waiting for customers hurrying back home after work, or for sick people who need immediate transportation and cannot wait for the bus.

The car owners engaged in this illegal activity are a mixed crowd: malingerers on extended sick leave thanks to certificates obligingly issued by their doctors, teachers, civil servants who draw their salaries and then take time off, heads of large families moonlighting to supplement their incomes, and finally many retired people who cannot make ends meet because prices are rising and their pensions have not been adjusted for years.

The vehicles used for that more or less lucrative activity range from the 20-year-old jalopy to the Renault-25, Renault-5, Golf, etc. Big-engined cars usually serve for longer trips and are most often rented by smugglers, three or four of them teaming up to cross the borders with disconcerting ease, returning loaded with all sorts of stuff from southeast Asia, as if our borders were common sieves open to the four winds.

Because of its geostrategic position at the foot of the Aures range and its continuation, the Nememchas, at an equal distance of the east, west, and south borders, Batna has eventually become the hub, the unavoidable crossroads, the logistic base for all traffics, for undisclosed and undisclosable activities: drug from the west, dubious products from Southeast Asia, luxury cars stolen in Europe, etc.

"Clandestine" transportation through the town of Batna has progressively become a nuisance, a state of things tolerated because of the laxness that has pervaded society in recent years.

It is undeniable that this abnormal, or at least hybrid, situation entails serious risks, because the vehicles are not subject to any periodic checks by government vehicle-testing services, and carry only third-party insurance; the passengers carried in addition to the driver are not covered by any insurance.

In Batna, these "clandestine" vehicles, as they are referred to in common parlance, have literally invaded all the neighborhoods. From morning to evening, they park at the most inconvenient spots, mostly in "no parking" spots, resulting in traffic jams, crowds, and brawls.

That activity is so lucrative that tens of vehicles come from several districts in the governorate (Merouana, Seirana, El-Madher, Tazoult, Chemorra). These are usually retired people from France or their offspring who operate big cars to Algiers, Oran, Morocco, and Tunisia. Being in temporary transit, these vehicles carry foreign license plates.

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One way or the other, this illegal and uncontrollable activity which promotes smuggling and drug trafficking, and is of no profit to the State—quite to the contrary, as it breeds only social ills—must be stopped.

The authorities might issue permits to those "clandestine" carriers who would apply for them—which would enable them to be covered by the special insurance of licensed taxi-drivers—while on the other hand systematically fighting the hard core that would persist in operating illegally, those who want "to have their cake and eat it."

At the same time, such an operation would put an end to this illegal activity that many traffickers use for their underhand business.

This measure would obviously be welcomed by the people as a whole; it would undeniably restore the authorities' tarnished image.

As an old retired civil servant put it tersely, through such a salutary and useful measure, the State would impose its authority.

Violence 'Not' Under Control; Group Conflict

94AF0276A Algiers ALGERIE ACTUALITE in French
15 Aug 94 p 9

[Article by Rachid Drif: "Terrorism: Renewed Tension"—first paragraph is ALGERIE ACTUALITE introduction]

[Text] At a time when a power struggle seems again to have broken out within the armed Islamist movement, renewed tension and violence are reported; Islamist threats are growing in number while the government claims to have the situation under control.

Hattab Abdelkader, recently killed by Said Makhloufi's group, will remain an enigma in the terrorist nebula. He took valuable information to the grave, in particular concerning the attack that cost the MAJD [Algerian Movement for Justice and Development] president, Kasdi Merbah, his life. This attack was attributed to the Ain-Taya group composed of members of Hattab's family and headed by his cousin Toufik, who escaped from the Oran jail in 1992 and was killed at Ben Mered late in February 1994. Young Hattab moved between Ben Zerga, where his group was decimated, Baraki, and Beni Amrane near Lakhdaria.

Abdelkader Hattab, for his part, went underground in 1990, before being presented as one of the most vicious leaders of the armed fundamentalist movement. Yet, for four years he was not heard of anywhere, and his name did not appear on any document from the armed groups. When the fundamentalists were amnestied in 1989, he was one of the 15 signatories of a letter asking that the Bouyalists be reinstated in their rights, together with the Baa brothers (one of whom is now in prison and sentenced to death; the other is still wanted), the Bab El-Oued imam Abdelkader Moghni (first a "dawaa," then an FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] member), Abdelkader Chebouti, and Mansouri Meliani.

In 1990, he took part in the holdup of a domestic explosive-storage armory near Jijel, in company with Islamists who formed their own armed cells in 1992: Bouabdallah Hassan, an "Afghan" who was later arrested and escaped while being transferred from Serkadji to Lambese; Assameur Kamel, head of a group that took the name of "hijra oua takfir" [al-Takfir wa al-Hijrah (expiation and exile)]; Seddiki Nouredine, a young theologian and a close associate of Sahnouni El Hachemi although opposed to the FIS "politicians"—he was arrested and, he too, escaped from prison; Allam, also known as emir Nouh, sentenced to death and executed.

The stolen TNT—several hundred kilos—was concealed in several caches and used by armed groups long afterward, in particular in 1992, by the Casbah group, one of the violent cells linked with Moh Leveille's gang.

Hattab was presented as one of the GIA's [Armed Islamic Group's] emirs but, although he is viewed as someone to be feared, he is not part of any of the movement's programs, whether led by Meliani, Layada, or Gousmi.

Breakup

Following the GIA communique dated of May, which "officially" announced the union of all terrorist organizations under a single commander, Cherif Gousmi,—the successor of Si Ahmed Mourad, also known as Djaafar el Afghani—conflicts and a power struggle seem to have broken out again. First with the AIS, the Islamic Salvation Army created by FIS exiles in an attempt to gain control over the armed groups. It was in fact Kamreddine Kherbane—dismissed member of the ANP [People's National Army], member of the Islamic front's former Majlis Echourra [advisory council], in charge of the Sidi Ramdane mosque in the Casbah until 1991—who first mentioned the AIS, at the Congress of the Islamist International in Khartoum. In an interview with a French journalist, he mentioned the GIA, hinting that the movement's claims were often questionable. Most armed groups are beyond the control of exiled politicians, and persistent rumors mentioned that the security forces had infiltrated Layada's and Djaafar el Afghani's groups. The other conflict seemed to oppose Makhloufi's movement, "harakat eddaoula el islamia," to the GIA, for obscure reasons that caused that other former ANP member to eliminate one of his peers, in spite of the agreement signed in May. It is also likely that this agreement was discussed in the presence of the various group leaders active in the Algerois, except Chebouti, Baa, and Hattab.

The consensus therefore did not last and Kebir, Kherbane, and Bounoua's "executive branch" in turn broke up when two of its members who supported the GIA were excluded. Kebir stated that the AIS was the armed wing of the banned FIS, thus refusing to recognize Gousmi as head of the armed groups. Yet, other members of the "djazaara," Redjam and M. Said, pledged allegiance to the new "emir." Already during the summer of 1992, relations between Kebir and M. Said deteriorated because Redjam was no longer authorized to sign communiqués on behalf of the

banned party. That order came from Abassi Madani in the Blida prison, and favored Kebir who thus became spokesman at the expense of the other members of the "crisis center." These, therefore, are also old quarrels that resurface and compound the endless conflict between the "Algerianists" of the djaazara and the Salafists.

For the former, the police represented the main target as early as 1992. The latter believed in aiming at many targets so as to make things worse without worrying about political repercussions and the embarrassment caused to party leaders. It was that strategy that the GIA adopted, using car bombs, assassinating foreign nationals or civilians who were often presented as allies of the government and informers.

A Situation 'Under Control'

Faced with escalating violence and daily assassinations, government sources claim that the situation is under control. Still, in towns like Sidi Moussa or Meftah, armed groups continue to lay down the law in full daylight. In Kabylia, well-armed terrorists move about in trucks and attack villages. At Jijel, on the cliff road, fake roadblocks are frequent. At Medea, attacks and dead bodies have become commonplace. It is no secret, and insecurity prevails over one half of the country.

From the military point of view, the situation can actually be brought under control. Fifteen months ago, the number of Islamists who had chosen violence was officially estimated at 2,000. Today, this figure should be multiplied tenfold. Technically, the armed movement cannot face such a heavy army as the ANP, but even a small number of violent cells can harass the police and at the same time mobilize a large part of the army's personnel.

The terrorist nebula has extensive ramifications and its numbers remain hard to estimate. A few weeks ago, when a French newspaper reported the existence of a video cassette that was being circulated clandestinely in France, the Algerian press announced that a Parisian weekly was about to publish a report on the special forces' operations in the Mitidja.

The amateur cassette showed an armed group in the maquis, displaying home-made weapons and grenades. Other pictures showed the terrorists at a meeting, and in prayer by the side of their deads. A voice off explained the motivations of the "jihad," based on a "fatwa" making it permissible for the armed groups to get their supplies from the people, a way to "legalize" the racket.

In the report on the special forces, an officer is said to have mentioned the figure of 2,500 men in the GIA ranks. This certainly does not take into account the support networks and the sympathizers who, in turn, may have recourse to violence. There is also a subject that is taboo: women who support the armed struggle and who, one way or another, helped a brother, a relative, or a husband involved in acts of terrorism. The authorities have always been discreet on that point. It is certain that the armed movement regenerates itself despite the fact that hundreds of terrorists were

arrested or killed. Large quantities of weapons are still in circulation, several hundreds of them, including mostly hunting rifles, but also hundreds of kilos of explosives, the origin of which was not disclosed and which are used occasionally.

For several weeks, information on terrorism has been controlled, published in dribbles, and only the attacks that will unavoidably be publicized in the media are reported. This strategy of the government, with centralized communications, may give the illusion that the situation is under control, but actually it cannot ease the widespread atmosphere of insecurity.

As for the Islamists, they continue to be on the offensive when it comes to communication, and they use an effective propaganda. Their relays—the mosques, the street, tracts, rumors—operate like a well-oiled machine. Communiques are regularly faxed to newspaper editors, and the GIA has chosen the method used by international terrorism: it immediately claims responsibility for attacks, whereas until a few months ago the armed movement acted in silence or published ambiguous tracts so as to cloud the issue. The GIA's new threats, this time against students and teachers that would go back to school in September, show that the escalation reported in recent weeks has not reached its limits. This year again, fall will be fraught with uncertainty.

Towns Damaged in Fires Discussed

94AF0276C Algiers LE MATIN in French
18 Aug 94 p 3

[Article by Amer Ait Saadi: "Ain El Hammam: The People Face the Fires; Nothing Like It Was Ever Seen Before"]

[Text] The Ain El Hammam area and the neighboring villages have lived one week in hell. Tens of fires, numerous deaths; in particular at Ighi Ahfad, near Koukou, in the Ait Yahia community: 10 dead, including seven from the same family, and 40 wounded.

The first fire was at the village of Ait Medjeber; the fire was fanned by a favorable wind. The impact was considerable. Feeling threatened by the fire, the villagers were evacuated to other villages. Sunday evening, the areas around the villages of Ait Ziri, Ait Antar, and Ait Djebera were devastated. Faced with this most distressing situation, the citizens mobilized to save the few houses that form the hamlet of Ait Ziri. Only three houses were slightly touched by the fire.

Monday morning, the fire started up even worse than before on the Koukou ridge. The village of Ighil Ahfad suffered serious damage. The citizens were surprised by the extent of the fire. They panicked and attempted to flee, but in vain; they were surrounded by fire. Some were unable to escape. They were burned to death.

When asked, witnesses said that the firemen arrived after the village had been devastated. Despite the efforts of the civilian rescue squad, no one could tackle the fire. The firemen's only resources were two tank trucks for the entire Ait Yahia area; however, thanks to the help of Ait Hichem

villagers, the situation was brought under control and the damages minimized. During the night of Monday to Tuesday, the inhabitants of Ighil Ahfad were evacuated to Ait Hichem and taken in by the people there. Physicians and nurses from the Ain El Hammam hospital were rushed on location to provide emergency care. Citizens noted the absence of local authorities during this ordeal. Nine people, including one older man aged 60, one young man aged 20, one girl aged 22, and four sisters aged 8 to 14 were found burned to death a few hundred meters from the Ighil Ahfad village. The 10th victim, a young boy aged 10, died of his burns at the Tizi-Ouzou hospital.

The victims were buried at the Ait Hichem Martyrs Monument, in the same grave, last Tuesday.

During this period of hot weather, drinking water has become both extremely rare and valuable.

As soon as the fire went out, Tuesday morning, order was restored; the citizens went back to their daily business. On Wednesday, the Tizi-Ouzou governor made the trip to attend the young boy's funeral and visit the disaster-stricken village.

A committee to aid and support the victims' families was just created by three associations, in Koukou, Taliwa, and Ait Hichem, and with the help of the Ain El Hammam Si Mohand Ou M'hend Association. The appeal made by the committee on Tuesday was met with strong support, and assistance to the people was provided in the form of money and medicines.

In addition, several fires were reported in the villages of Ait Ilem, Telilit, Ouaghzan, Ighil Bougueni, Iferhounen, Ait Meslayen, Ait Ouabane, Ait Allaoua, and Darna. Fortunately, the situation there could be brought under control soon enough.

Forest Fires; Considerable Damages

Over 142 forest fires were reported in Algeria in two days, Sunday and Monday; they caused the death of 22 people and destroyed several thousands of hectares of forest, the civilian rescue organization indicated.

The most spectacular fires started in the East in Kabylia and at Skikda, where 22 people died in the flames while several villages had to be evacuated.

At Bejaia, the Lal' Gouraya forest that overlooks the town was almost entirely destroyed on the heights of the Gouraya mountain.

According to local witnesses, ashes carried by a violent hot wind covered the city roofs, yards, and gardens with a gray coat, turning the city into the "unusual sight of a ghost town."

According to other witnesses, in the neighboring town of Toudja, the flames reached 30 meters in height over a front several kilometers long.

In that town, several people, including women and children, died and 19 others were wounded, five of them seriously, the civilian rescue organization indicated.

At Skikda, several fires started around Zitouna and El Hadaik, causing the death of six people.

At El Tarf, the fires reached several villages and the national park of El Kala.

According to the civilian rescue organization, these fires spread easily due to strong winds and unusually high temperatures for the season, which exceeded 44 degrees in East Algeria.

In addition, other fires were the result of criminal acts or negligence on the part of campers and drivers, the same source indicated.

Since the beginning of summer, 644 fires were reported throughout Algeria, over one half of which were in the East, the most densely forested area.

Twenty-two thousand five hundred hectares of forest, mostly oak, live oak, and Alep-pine forests, were destroyed.

IRAQ

Military Industrialization Establishment Praised

94LH0094A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
1 Aug 94 pp 4-5

[Article by Nadyah Shakarah: Military Industrialization Establishment Brainchild of Creative Leader]

[Text] The modern military industrialization operation is considered to be Iraq's historically glorious achievement. It is the outcome of the intermarriage of industrial development and permanent defensive military needs, under the leadership and guidance of the inspired political mind, and relying upon the best of creative national minds.

On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution, we met with Mr. Munif 'Abd-al-Majid Ahmad, deputy director of the military industrialization establishment who spoke to us about the beginnings of the military industrialization establishment, saying:

"After the glorious 17-30 July revolution in 1968, and the party's assumption of the leadership of the country, serious thinking began to take place about the protection of national independence, which basically relies on constructing substructures to serve the armed forces and on building a modern industrial base that secures their needs. Work began in a persistent manner and according to precise scientific plans to execute this objective. During the following years of work, various mechanical, electrical, and chemical industries were established to enhance this objective. On that basis, the general establishment for technical industries was established, which also labored to build various factories that enhance the civil and military industrial base. In 1980, when the Iranian aggression against the country took place, most of these projects were at the initial stage of construction. They were not integrated and did not satisfy the needs of the armed forces to repel the Iranian aggression. For that reason, the war served to expedite the operation to complete these projects, to operate them, and

to utilize their production. This progressed gradually and slowly because of the difficult circumstances that were imposed on the country because of the war and the reservations of some countries regarding cooperation in these fields."

The Great Turning Point

The deputy director of the military industrialization establishment points out: "With the passage of time we gained expertise and knowledge. The big turning point in the life of the general establishment for technical industries occurred in 1986, deriving from the strategic perspective of supplying all the needs of the armed forces from Iraqi factories. Indeed, in a short period of time, the factories were fitted out and prerequisites were made available so that as of 1987, we began to supply all the needs of the armed forces. In other words, we achieved self-sufficiency in all types of prerequisites that are needed in war. Scientific research projects in various areas succeeded one another and bore fruit with the completion of the al-Husayn and al-'Abbas rockets and the early warning airplanes 'Adnan 1 and 'Adnan 2, culminating in the al-'Abid system."

A Space Launch

The discussion with the deputy director of the military industrialization establishment continued, and we inquired about the nature and specifications of al-'Abid rocket through which mighty Iraq demonstrated to the entire world that space is not the monopoly of the Western powers. He answered us, saying: "The al-'Abid rocket system is an experimental system for entry into the space age to deepen cultural and scientific relations with the peoples of the world. The test was successful. The al-'Abid rocket was launched successfully on the first attempt, in accordance with what was planned for it. It achieved its test goals. If it were to be compared with international tests in this field, then it would be considered to be distinguished and a certificate of excellence for Iraqi capability."

Our Arms are Sheaves of Plenty

Observe the creative Iraqi mind as it enters a new stage by way of defiance after it demonstrated time and time again that it is capable of achieving miracles and of expressing the energy and pride of this great country.

What a huge number of gigantic wonderful projects have been implemented by the [holy] warriors of military industrialization in the area of civilian industry. The deputy director of the establishment states: "The leader president, Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, said in his meeting with ministers on 29 December 1992: 'We want each of our ministers to be effective and to be at a level capable of directing military industrialization, which is accorded priority within the state.' This statement placed an additional responsibility upon us on the road to building the great Iraq, as the leader president, Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, had played and continues to play the major and leading part in the great achievements that military industrialization had accomplished. His excellency enjoys immense leadership capabilities, that are known to

everyone, to translate matters into deeds and steer them at high speed into great achievements that are implemented quickly. This is where the patronage and support of military industrialization originated as his excellency would persistently inquire about all that is new in our work, within limits.

Projects of Defiance

The discussion continues. After a moment of reflection, Mr. Munif 'Abd-al-Majid hastens to say: "It would be difficult to quantify what the just sons of Iraq, the [holy] warriors of military industrialization, have accomplished in services and projects in the civilian industry field. At the head of those [holy] warriors who laid the solid foundation for the edifice of achievements and technology are Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals, supervisor of the military industrialization authority, and those who marched with him on the road of sacrifice and contribution."

We say to the deputy director of the military industrialization authority: "The greatness of nations and peoples is measured by what they achieve and what they accomplish in excellence in the technical and scientific field."

He comments on this, saying: "Our completed projects, or those that are on the way to being completed, like the double-decked bridge of the leader, the Baghdad Clock, the Saddam Communications Tower, irrigation dams, the Great Saddam River, the Mother of Battles River, al-Qadisiyah River and the like, have all been implemented by innovative and worthy Iraqi minds and by purely Iraqi capabilities. This is the real measure of innovation by the Iraqi mentality in its race against time and its defiance of the unjust embargo that has been imposed on our beloved country. It is the key to our entry into the field of highly technological industrial projects, the implementation of which was the monopoly of foreign companies

"The first and foremost engineer of Iraq, the pioneer of its modern revival, the Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, played and continues to play the major part in establishing and supporting the military industrialization authority which is the fruit of his worthy mind."

A New Dawn

Mr. Munif 'Abd-al-Majid affirms an important truth—that military industrialization has organized itself extremely well to overcome difficulties. It entered into a work situation in competition with other bodies and has always come out of the competition victorious, even in some projects requiring specialization in their implementation. Moreover, the experience of military industrialization added great benefits and know-how to the companies of the other ministries through the implementation of joint projects. Industrialization still plays the leading part in the implementation of difficult jobs. It entered into many production cycles and, as a consequence, their pace changed, they became active and had good capabilities.

The discussion with the deputy director of the military industrialization authority continues. The conversation leads us to development projects, the overcoming of difficulties, and finding replacements in these difficult circumstances.

He hastens to say: "Scientific talents are Iraq's credit balance and its base to build the future. It has a broad and large project for local industrialization in replacement items to replace imported ones. We have new production every day."

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Kuwaiti Magazine Views Country's Future

94AE0168A Kuwait *AL-MUJTAMA* in Arabic 2 Aug 94
pp 20-23

[Article by Nasir Yahyah: "New Regime With Old Faces"]

[Text] In spite of the fact that several weeks have passed since the end of the war in Yemen, the features of the coming period remain unclear, especially in regard to the Socialist Party's participation in the governing coalition, and the extent of this participation.

No doubt, a country like Yemen will experience great difficulties after an internal war that has fundamental consequences on all economic, political, and social levels. These problems are likely to be the center of attention of political observers inside and outside Yemen. They are also of concern to the ordinary citizen who would like to be assured that his future will be better than his past.

End of Duality!!

Perhaps, one of the most important political results of the war is the end of the period of political duality that governed political life in Yemen since reuniting its two parts in 1990. It is a formulation that has a bad reputation in Yemeni circles, but its distinguishing feature is that it was the only means to create a strong equilibrium capable of leading to real reforms and the creation of a regime with balanced centers of authority. However, the experiment of the past four years has established that the two poles of power failed to achieve those reforms. Rather, the equilibrium operation turned into a formulation to guarantee presence in power, disregarding any other democratic principles.

Therefore, the main reason for detonating the political crisis, followed by the recent war, was the persistence of the Socialists in ensuring their presence at the summit of government machinery through political guarantees after it became clear to them that the policy of peaceful transferring of power would lead them, in a few years, to the opposition benches.

Up until now, Yemeni leadership has been careful to announce its intention to preserve the form of coalition government that includes the largest Yemeni parties ([General People's] Congress [GPC], Reform [Grouping] [YRG], Socialist). There are even strong expectations that the

formation of the next government will include representatives from the independents and the small parties like the Nasirite Party, the Ba'th Party, and the Shiites.

Still, what is certain is that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will regain control many of the keys of authority in the government and army. The GPC may turn into a party in the style of the National Party in Egypt or its equivalent in Tunisia, taking into consideration the nature of the difference in the strength of the opposition in Yemen.

On the level of reorganizing Yemeni affairs, it appears that there is a strong desire to enable the supporters of the former president, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, to assume many responsibilities on the ministerial and local government levels in the eastern and southern governorates, forestalling any accusation of northerners being in control of affairs there. This would be in addition to creating a kind of equilibrium with the Islamic current, which enjoys a popularity that exceeds that of the GPC itself.

As for former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, at the beginning of the war he was the preferred candidate of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to join the Presidential Council. However, his hesitant attitude toward the two sides of the conflict has left many observers with the opinion that 'Ali Nasir has lost his most fortuitous opportunity to return to the summit of Yemeni leadership, especially since the circumstances of the war forced him to seek the aid of political personalities in the eastern and southern governorates in order to fill the vacuum in the leadership that had been occupied by the leaders of the Socialist Party.

All the same, 'Ali Nasir's return is still expected, even if it has negative aspects. It is feared that 'Ali Nasir will form a new (splinter) recruiting center that would repeat 'Ali Salim al-Bid's experiment, because of the kind of popularity the man enjoys in Aden and Abyan. This is in addition to having numerous supporters in the Yemeni Army. They participated in the fight against the Socialists and were one of the first units to enter Aden on 7 July.

Socialists Awaiting Savior!!

Since the beginning of the war, the Socialists have been cautiously attempting to gain their bearings after suffering a decisive defeat, which they did not expect, and the dispersal of their leadership, with many leaders escaping abroad.

Two days after Aden was secured, two members of the political bureau of the Socialist Party sent a private document from their hiding place in the city to one of the prominent military leaders requesting a meeting with President 'Ali Salih at his historically famous headquarters.

Naturally, such a request was tantamount to a request to surrender, but the sensitivity of conditions in Yemen allowed the matter to pass without arousing any of the sensitivities that one would expect in circumstances such as these.

In any case, the Yemeni leadership did not lock the door of understanding with what it terms as the Arab unity current in the Socialist Party, but followed a clever policy by directing its hostility to a limited number of Socialist leaders, while leaving others in their ministerial and governmental positions, with Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council, at the head.

It should be admitted that this policy has succeeded in dividing the word of the Socialists during the war. It pushed many of them to keep silent and await the result of the war after it became unfeasible for them to announce their support for secession or stand by President 'Ali Salih's side.

After the guns became silent, the first concern of the Socialist leadership remaining in Sanaa was to gain time to gather what could be gathered of the members of the Central Committee in any place to decide on a number of compelling demands, like:

- 1. The election of a new leadership for the party.
- 2. Defining the type of relationship between the Socialist Party and the state.

It is clear that each mentioned demand carries within its folds the seeds of a storm of possible disagreements, and it would be difficult to arrive at a quick agreement. However, there are opinions that insist that the Socialists were able to put off their disagreements until they finished rearranging their affairs within the state and the executive apparatus. That is because the formation of the new order in Yemen cannot wait long, until the Socialists arrive at their point of view.

It should be pointed out here that the formation of a new government has become assured. It seems that President 'Ali Salih is waiting for the solving of the severe problems that afflict combat areas to be finished before he nominates another person to form the government.

In spite of the fact that most point to Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani as the most favored of the candidates to be the new prime minister, there is an expected surprise in the selection of a moderate personality from Hadramawt. Some even disclose the name Dr. Faraj Bin-Ghanim, the former minister of planning. Even if he were to be appointed as a representative of the Socialists, he is not known for his zeal for the Socialist Party. He could be classified as belonging to the technocrats faction. No doubt, a former minister of planning would gain approval from international organizations and foreign countries.

Yemen Values Relations With Gulf States

It can certainly be said that if no distinct positions are taken by the Socialists, their participation in power is nearer to realization. Their share is to be one seat on the Presidential Council, which is currently occupied by Salim Salih Muhammad, while it is expected that the Socialists will keep their positions in the ministries of culture, housing, fish resources, and electricity.

What might confirm this is that President 'Ali Salih did not appoint new ministers to the ministries mentioned, as he

did with the ministries of defense, oil, and transportation. Moreover, last week, the Yemeni parliament opened nominations to fill the vacant seat on the Presidential Council that was occupied by 'Ali Salim al-Bid. This is considered to be an implied recognition that Salim Salih Muhammad will remain a member of the Presidential Council.

The Islamic movement in Yemen has been able to overcome all attempts that have aimed at destroying it and diminishing its role. The past four years have proved that the YRG is the number that cannot be overcome in peace and in war.

The Islamists: Islamic parties have come out from the opposition experiment with a good reputation for playing the role of the reasonable opposition that is conscious of internal and external factors affecting the Yemeni situation. Then came the April 1993 parliamentary elections to establish the role of the Islamic parties as a central side to the political equation, something that enabled them to play an important part in the events that preceded the war. They appeared as a balancing force capable of contributing to keeping Yemen clear of the transgressions of wrong calculations.

In spite of that, the YRG did not hesitate for a moment to oppose the Socialists' wishes to gain sole governing control of the southern and eastern governorates, and then to announce the secession. That is why all are convinced that the YRG's stand in support of President 'Ali Salih has reinforced his popular and political positions in his war against his foes, the Socialists.

Indeed, this cooperation between President 'Ali Salih and the YRG was not the first of its kind. The Islamic parties had cooperated with the Yemeni president 14 years ago to confront the Marxist guerilla war when this cooperation succeeded in smashing the wave of communist expansion in Yemen, and subsequently, in the reinforcing of the regime of President 'Ali Salih, which preserved for the Islamic parties their role during periods of strain between the two sides. Matters between them did not reach the degree of bloodletting that are known in many Arab regimes. The Islamic parties' awareness of the sensitivity of local and foreign circumstances and the balance of power inside and outside the country might have contributed to their avoiding violent encounters that are based on faulty calculations of the realities of power in their country. Moreover, the Islamic movement lays the plan of its movement on the basis that it is a movement that encourages virtue and prevents vice according to the rules and stages that the canon law of that important aspect of Islamic thought is based.

Since the end of the war, the enemies of the Islamic movement are focusing their attack on the alliance between the GPC and the YRG, fearing that the Islamic parties would profit from the post war state of affairs. A strong media attack has been spread about the prompt expectation of an explosion of hostility between the two sides. This is in addition to inciting the fears of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih about the possibility of the Islamic parties turning against him and storming the popular arena without him.

Until now, nothing has appeared that would indicate that the YRG would be banished from power, or that it would be allowed to [seize] it by force. This is in spite of the fact that there is a current within the GPC that has no affection for the Islamic parties, and perhaps, is behind this media attack against them.

Sources close to the authorities and the Islamic parties attest to the preservation of the Islamic parties in the governing coalition, even if there is a strong possibility that this would be reduced to calm Western fears about what is being rumored about the increase in the influence of the fundamentalists—especially since Islamic volunteers took part in fighting against the Socialists who gained considerable popular sympathy for them, especially after their success in a number of suicidal missions and the destruction of the famous alcohol factory in Aden. This is one of the points of sharp disagreements between the Islamic parties and the Socialists who considered closing the factory or converting its production to a defeat of the secular project in Yemen.

Since President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will meet in the near future with political problems from his adversaries who are loyal to the Socialist Party, he will be forced not to cut all links of sympathy with the Islamic parties. He needs an ally of the popular and political weight of the YRG. Conversely, the YRG does not accept for itself that it will turn into a party on the margin of political life as long as it is able to play a role that serves its aims and principles, benefitting from the common denominators that bring the GPC and the YRG together and from the great sympathy that a large sector inside the GPC itself feels for it.

Neighboring Countries

Yemeni-Gulf relations form one of the centers of political life in Yemen.

Despite the cooling of relations between Yemen and the Gulf countries after Iraq occupied Kuwait in 1990, Yemen has remained intent on restoring matters to their natural state and to clearing the clouds that have hung over relations. The return of many negotiations to their active status and a relative easing of movement between Yemen and the neighboring countries might have been a result of this.

With the outbreak of the recent war, Yemeni-Gulf relations were about to enter a new juncture of negative overheating. But the Yemenis shaped their policy to cool the situation as much as they could. Acting from a Yemeni conviction that it would never be in the interest of Yemen to have relations with the Gulf countries deteriorate, they attempted to convince the Gulf people that the dispute can be collared in preparation for resolving it in the future.

It can confidently be said: Restoring Yemeni-Gulf relations to their natural state will become a basic aim of the new stage, standing in readiness to disarm all the bombs placed in the way.

Most probably, the nature of the upcoming regime will become the most important stumbling block in President

'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's selections, especially as many sides believe that he cannot overcome it easily.

Because the GPC, the president's party, is demanding the right of the popular plurality that it attained, and it is up to Nasir and his supporters to put themselves forward as a replacement for the Socialists.

The Socialists insist on their ability to resume fighting if they are excluded.

The Islamic parties are yesterday's allies. Ignoring them would be difficult and the result of the selection is unknown.

The independents and the small parties are also demanding their share.

To balance the presence of the Islamic parties, the international community is applying pressure in favor of sharing.

The coming days will fill in the new blanks with which a new history of Yemen is beginning.

Al-Ahmar Discusses YSP, Dangers Facing Country

94AE0169A Kuwait *AL-MUJTAMA'* in Arabic 2 Aug 94 pp 24-26

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives and chairman of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, by Nasir Yahya in Sanaa, date not given—first two paragraphs are *AL-MUJTAMA'* introduction]

[Text] The important role in the Yemeni war of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] has augmented its stature and political influence in Yemen as well as abroad. Internal and external forces now make it a point to monitor the statements of YRG officials since it has developed into a military and political force second only to the Congress Party now that the Socialists have suffered political and military defeat and no longer have a role to play after the collapse of the separatist state they proclaimed in the South.

In order to ascertain the facts and explore what the future holds for Yemen under current conditions, *AL-MUJTAMA'* had the following interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives and chairman of the Yemeni Reform Grouping:

[Yahya] Now that the canons are silent, do you believe that the war was necessary to resolve the situation once and for all or do you think that it could have been averted?

[Al-Ahmar] The fact is, the Socialist Party frustrated all attempts at resolving the conflict and persisted in escalating it until it blew up into a military confrontation to serve the deplorable separatist designs advanced by some Socialist leaders. The Socialists left legitimate authority no option but war, and they had to be confronted and challenged in order to prevent forcible secession. The armed forces then sprang into action as they discharged their duty to safeguard the union and protect the legitimate government

against the separatist challenge. The people have rallied around their armed forces with unprecedented solidarity. That solidarity, next to God's mercy and guidance, was an important factor in the victory achieved. Sedition was terminated and the insurrection was brought to an end, Thank God.

[Yahya] Of the challenges facing Yemen in the aftermath of the war, which do you believe are the most significant?

[Al-Ahmar] There is no doubt that our country now faces numerous and momentous challenges, such as charting a modern institution-based Yemeni state, establishing and bolstering democracy and responsible political plurality, repairing the damage of the war inflicted by the separatists on the Yemeni people, rectifying fiscal and administrative affairs, and working toward economic development. But our most important challenge is to alleviate citizen suffering by containing the high cost of living and eliminating the factors underlying it.

[Yahya] The Socialist Party has several members in the House of Representatives. How will you deal them, and especially with those who declared for secession?

[Al-Ahmar] We are careful to abide by established rules and regulations and will therefore deal with Socialist deputies in accordance with legal and constitutional provisions. It should be noted that many individuals have benefited by the general pardon issued by the political leadership.

The Future of the Socialists

[Yahya] Several parties are still striving to formulate the Socialist Party's new role, and especially its place among major state apparatus. Do you personally have certain conditions for continued alliance with the Socialists?

[Al-Ahmar] There exists an alliance document that was accepted by all of us, then there is the outcome of the 27 April 1993 elections leading to a legitimate government in our country, and there is also the consensus that democracy is to be the foundation for our system of government and for the peaceful transfer of authority. Our conditions for continued Socialist Party membership in the alliance reflect what the people, of which we are part, want—that the Socialist Party commit to the preceding stipulations, reject anything that would undermine the union, and condemn the separatists and the secessionist ideology.

[Yahya] It is rumored that Congress and Reform are locking horns over the return of former president 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and over the inclusion of Socialist leaders in the government. Is that true?

[Al-Ahmar] There is absolutely no truth to that. We will not squabble over anything that serves Yemeni interests!

No Disagreement with Congress

[Yahya] The future of relations between the YRG and the [General] People's Congress Party is also subject to rumor. There is speculation that the YRG will be removed in the near future and its role in government marginalized. What do you say to that?

[Al-Ahmar] Positions are not taken on the basis of rumors and speculation fostered by individuals who seek to destabilize Yemen, but God will foil them.

Conspiracies Doomed to Failure

[Yahya] Al-Bid supporters continue to reiterate their intention to maintain the fight by some other means. What do you know about this? Do you believe that the general pardon allows for their return to Yemen?

[Al-Ahmar] I have no information on this matter, but it is certain that those who failed in their conspiracy when they had the tools, tremendous resources, and control of whole provinces will be even more impotent after their flight from Yemen. It behooves them to return to reason and take advantage of the general pardon to return to their homeland to live instead of hanging onto sick dreams and wild fancies.

State Extremism is the Cause

[Yahya] The YRG is accused of taking in what the media describes as "extremists" or "fundamentalists." How do you respond to those accusations? How do you evaluate official Arab and Western positions on the subject?

[Al-Ahmar] The YRG is a political organization that exercises its constitutional right to engage in overt political action in accordance with the law. It participates in government by virtue of winning seats in the House of Representatives in public elections whose results are sanctioned by the country's political forces.

The YRG's alliance with the Socialist Party and with the General People's Congress is an experiment—the first of its kind, and we wish it success. An organization that operates openly, expresses its viewpoints unequivocally, enunciates its precepts clearly, and invites membership by all the people—an organization such as that cannot possibly embrace extremists. Extremism found in certain countries is but the result of denying Islamic movements their right to exercise political action and of preventing them from publicizing their ideology and advocating it to society. In other words, it is government extremism that has propelled contravening extremism.

It is unfortunate that certain Arab and non-Arab governments treat such accusations as fact without taking the trouble to verify them.

It is equally unfortunate that the information apparatus of the Socialist Party—and some of its leaders as well—has been able in the past to delude many government agencies, especially in the Arab countries, into believing that there are extremists in the YRG and other false charges. The Yemeni people are entirely Muslim with no minorities and no fanaticism or repression as is the case in certain Arab countries where authorities resort to brutal repression, especially against religious youths, thereby provoking some of them to resist state oppression and terrorism. Those are the ones they call "extremists."

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[Yahya] Both the Arab League and the United Nations were involved with the Yemeni crisis. How do you evaluate their role in light of your insistence that the crisis was an internal matter?

[Al-Ahmar] We did insist, and we still do, that whatever happened was an internal matter. Nonetheless, we responded to UN resolutions responsibly as we sought to serve our national interests by avoiding developments that could undermine our country's independence and sovereignty. We rebuffed no effort or action that sought a solution to our country's crisis.

We and the Brethren

[Yahya] You are a staunch advocate of improving Yemeni relations with its neighbors and of putting the second Gulf crisis behind us. Don't you agree that those relations have been strained by this latest crisis in Yemen? How do you envision the future?

[Al-Ahmar] There is no doubt that the attitude of some [governments] towards the recent crisis has strained Yemen's relations with its neighbors and brother-countries. However, the truth has come to be known. Thank God, and most of those countries have changed their positions once they recognized the Socialist Party's separatist lies and fabrications.

It is our hope that the brother-countries would safeguard their neighborly and fraternal relations with the Yemeni people and would not link the future relations of the region's peoples and countries with individuals who abandoned all morals, values, and principles as they dragged Yemen into a losing battle that cost them their souls and their country. Those individuals have undermined the Yemeni people's relations with those brethren, neighbors, and comrades which became unwittingly involved when duped by separatist lies and fabrications.

YRG's Future Role in the War's Aftermath

[Yahya] What role do you envision for the YRG after the crisis? Are you willing to occupy the "opposition" seat if need be?

[Al-Ahmar] The YRG will contribute diligently to the comprehensive construction of Yemen, both as a country and as a people. It will help lay the foundation for national unity among the people of Yemen from al-Mahrah to Sa'dah. It will also help rebuild after the ravages of war, implement the plans of the coalition government, and repair administrative, fiscal, and economic affairs.

Reform will also help bolster the democratic process and safeguard individual rights and freedoms.

Should the democratic process send the YRG to the "opposition," or should we find that this is where we can best serve the national interest or the democratic process, then we will become a "constructive and responsible opposition." We are amenable to anything that serves Yemeni interests, which, as we see it, supersede all others. We have no private interests to worry over should we leave the government for the "opposition" ranks. Indeed, being part

of the government under current conditions in Yemen is not in our partisan interest if judged by narrow partisan standards.

Sanaa-Based YSP Officials Issue Statement

94AE0164A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
3 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Article by Faysal Mukarram]

[Text] Sanaa—The "Secretariat of the Supreme Council of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] for Liaison and Coordination," which includes party officials who stayed in Sanaa throughout the war, headed by Mr. 'Ali Salih 'Ibad Muqbil member of the Political Bureau, issued a statement yesterday containing a series of points that condemned the declaration of secession. It also condemned the acts of pillage to which Aden and other cities had been subjected in the southern and eastern provinces of Yemen. Herein are the most important points found in the statement:

1. The YSP affirms its condemnation of the declaration of secession as an unpatriotic, unconstitutional act on the one hand, and as contrary to the party's program, its directives, its growth in unity, and its national role on the other. The YSP affirms that its legitimate agencies were not involved in the secession declaration or in formulating its justifications. It was an expression of nothing other than the views of its originators in their personal capacity.

2. On the basis of its national and historical responsibility, the YSP condemns the tragic war that raged through the nation (...) and it abhors the acts of pillage and destruction to which economic establishments, state organizations, and people's homes and property were subjected, especially in the city of Aden and other towns and villages in the southern and eastern provinces, as acts which inflicted damage to the interests of the people and the resources of the country, and harmed national unity in the country.

3. The YSP proclaims its repudiation of the use of violence as a means of dealing with internal political conflicts, and it affirms the importance of peaceful dialogue, and calls upon all political sides in the country without exception to commit themselves to peaceful and democratic dialogue, and to adopt it as the firm procedure for discussion of all issues upon which there is disagreement. Thus, the YSP believes that the war did not eliminate the causes of internal crises and tension, which can be cleared up only by achieving an effective political solution and a common national interest that takes into consideration the interests of all sides and their legitimate demands within the framework of the unity of the country, respect for the right to equal citizenship for all its people, and guaranteeing the practice of democracy and the integrity thereof. The party calls upon all political forces to undertake national dialogue immediately in order to deal with the nation's issues, which had previously been agreed upon in the Pledge and Accord Document, taking into consideration recent circumstances, and to deal with the effects of the war on the nation and the national unity of the Yemeni people.

4. The YSP affirms its respect for constitutional legitimacy, and its commitment to the results of the 27 April elections. It reaffirms its adherence to the Constitution and the laws in effect in the country. It affirms that in its participation in political life it conforms to the articles of the law of parties and political organizations, and it looks forward to the time when all parties and political organizations announce their approval of and commitment to the honor code of political action, which it had previously signed with the General People's Congress. The party calls upon the rest of the Yemeni political forces that have influence in the country to take serious positions based on commitment to the Constitution and laws.

5. It calls upon the Chamber of Deputies to double its efforts and to shoulder its responsibility to remove the effects of the war and normalize the political and democratic life of the country, and to move towards building a state of law and order, combatting corruption in the various agencies, and expediting the passage of legislation on the way to implementing the Pledge and Accord Document.

6. The YSP proclaims its rejection of any formula that calls for the setting up of a political opposition that headquarters itself in a foreign country, or takes money from abroad for its activities. It believes that such a formula will constitute

bondage to a foreign power, and accepting it constitutes renouncing the right to national sovereignty for Yemen, and is harmful to its supreme interests. The party demands that sides that have influence on decisionmaking in the state and its establishments adopt policies and procedures that would not allow the development of an objective basis for the establishment of an opposition abroad, that by committing themselves to the democratic rights of everybody, and not slipping into any practices whose aim is to subject those with differing views and positions to oppression.

7. Despite the war and the tragic consequences thereof, the YSP believes that the Pledge and Accord Document has still kept its true essence that is suited to solving the problems and crises of the country. It represents the basis for a joint program that would guarantee the creation of strong national unity, the straightening of the political course of the state, and the creation of realistic conditions for putting an end to burgeoning corruption and overcoming its effects, which are to blame for all the ugly situations, disturbances, and failures which are afflicting the country.

8. The YSP calls upon the government to faithfully fulfill its obligations to the people.

INDIA

'Sources' Tell Country's Stand on PRC Border Question

94AS0487A Madras *THE HINDU* in English 6 Aug 94 p 1

[Article by Atul Aneja: "India Wants China To Demarcate LAC"]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 5—In working out ways to reduce tension along the 4,000-km-long Sino-Indian Himalayan border, New Delhi first wants an agreement on an interim boundary with Beijing before pulling back its troops.

According to top sources, India wants to first lay down with China a Line of Actual Control (LAC) from where troops can be withdrawn. Demarcating the LAC and reduction of troops are key elements of an accord India and China had signed last year to maintain peace and tranquility on the border.

But during talks, the Chinese negotiators had wanted India to pull out from the Wangdung and the Hathung La sectors in Arunachal Pradesh. In 1986-87 India and China nearly clashed in this area where troops from the two sides are in sight of each other.

Once the LAC is defined, India and China will have a reference point from where the troops can be relocated away from the border to ensure "mutual and equal security."

Pull out distances will be worked out on the basis of "mutual and equal security" clause. An equidistant pull back will be disadvantageous to India.

Easier terrain and better roads on the Chinese side mean that the troops once pulled back can be reinducted faster. On the contrary, the mountainous Indian side will slow down a return of troops, if required.

"The two sides agree to reduce their military forces along the LAC in conformity with the requirements of the principle of mutual and equal security to ceilings to be mutually agreed" says Article II of the accord.

China and India are also to consult each other to decide "the extent, depth, timing and reduction of military forces along the LAC."

Troop pull back will take place in stages in sectors. "It is essential to mark every stone and pasture first as would happen when the LAC is laid down," the sources say.

The mutual trust and confidence generated after the LAC is defined is expected to accelerate the implementation of other steps included in the accord.

For instance, India and China have kept on hold ways of verifying that troops once pulled out are not brought back again. The accord has left open to Indian and Chinese negotiators to work out "the form, method, scale and content of effective verification measures and supervision."

Details are being worked out by an expert group comprising top defence and foreign office officials. The cell is part of the Joint Working Group (JWG), overseeing normalisation of ties to which settlement of Sino-Indian boundaries is central.

The group has met twice since the accord was signed in September 1993.

A flurry of high level recent contacts have helped to cement the accord. The deputy Chief of the Chinese Army, Lt. General Xu Hui Zi, visited India in December last. The Chinese Defence Minister, and Army Chief, General Chi Haotian, will visit India in September, only two months after the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, was [in] New Delhi. The Indian Army Chief, General B.C. Joshi, has just returned from China.

Flag meetings among local Chinese and Indian commanders at Bum La near Tawang in the east and Chushul in the Western sector are other multi-level trust building measures taken up at the military level. Meeting will also begin at the Shpki La and Nathu La border posts.

Telecommunication contacts between the Indian and Chinese sector commanders close to where flag meetings take place have also been set up.

Policy on Medicines To Counteract GATT Advocated

94AS0433B Jaipur *RAJASTHAN PATRIKA* in Hindi 5 Aug 94 p 6

[Article by Balraj Mehta: "The Necessity of a Effective Policy on Medicines"]

[Text] The prime minister has failed to remove the confusion over drug policy and [he has failed to] announce the new policy for medicines. During his recent visit to America, he had promised the large multinational drug companies that he would allow them to enter the Indian market. A similar promise was already made to the drug companies in Europe. It is those companies' contention that they can sell their best drugs in India. There are many provisions under the GATT agreement that are not suitable for most developing countries. This agreement will require changes in patent laws. There will be patents for products instead of processes. This change is likely to increase the demand for products even more. Work has already started on opening the Indian market to drugs from abroad with no price controls even before the changes in the Indian Patent law can be made effective. Although the GATT agreement has some provisions for intellectual property rights, it has provided an adjustment period of five to ten years to make progress in this direction. [In the GATT Agreement] There is no mention of the drug production, distribution or prices. There is no new policy even for the necessary drugs used in very common diseases.

Health For All

The national promise made for "Health for all" within this decade puts a great responsibility on the government that cannot be avoided. If drug prices rise any further, grave

consequences will follow because they have already risen very much during the last year. There are differences of opinion about formulating a new drug policy even within the government. Drug prices cannot be kept from rising, given the liberal economic policy and a market oriented economy. This problem is going to grow even worse as we decontrol imports. In particular the multinational drug companies, with their new formulations, will increase their drug prices even further. Important people concerned about this in the government are thinking that some price controls on both indigenous and imported medicines are very important.

Mr. Ramlakhan Yadava received the [ministerial] portfolios for chemicals and fertilizers as a reward for joining the Congress (I). He is also responsible for formulating the new drug policy. He has started proposing some resolutions to investigate policy options at the behest of the Prime Minister. The minister of state is also in favor of price controls for indigenous as well as imported medicines. The only task remaining is to make a list of the necessary medicines and place them under price controls so that common people, even low income people can easily obtain necessary drugs.

GATT and the Drug Policy

The debate over GATT has grown even more bitter after the signing. The Indian Patent Law of 1970 gives Indian professionals the right to research, investigate and produce the formulas for new medicines. Now the law has to be changed. The Indian drug industry will not be able to break the monopoly control of the multinational drug companies. This is true not only in the Indian market but in the international markets also. The Indian drug industry has made giant strides in the last two decades but an effort is being made at present to make it lame and dependent [Upon the multinational drug companies]. The multinational companies will enter the Indian market independently, their new drugs will get patent protection for twenty years and they will be able to enjoy that protection even longer than twenty years. Product patent ensures them the monopoly over a longer period. Indian drug companies, indigenous or international, will not be able to withstand this competition.

The objectives of the "Health for all" program which is accepted as a basic human right, will not be met. Common people whose ability to pay the higher price of medicines is already weak will not be able to afford even necessary drugs. Health care in India is already weak, but with this new arrangement, there will be a devastating impact on India and most other developing countries.

The Indian drug industry, whether indigenous or international, has a specific problem. These companies have developed special formulations without giving any thought to their usefulness. They sell drugs not to improve the health of the common man but rather to make profits. Their sales techniques border on immorality. Even the physicians are involved in this corruption. Looking at it this way, it is necessary that drug production and distribution be controlled. Product patents will spoil this matter.

The Indian patent law gave patent protection for seven years. Increasing this limit to twenty years will only increase the monopoly rights of the international drug companies. And if they charge someone with a patent violation, the responsibility will be on the person who is charged to prove that he has not stolen the formula. This will only increase the number of court cases. This provision of the patent law is against the basic principles of jurisprudence. This means that the international drug companies are not willing to accept any competition from developing countries. They want to stop any kind of competition from coming up in any form. Only one thing is clear and that is the same drug is being sold at different prices in different countries.

The Right to Health

One thing is becoming clear with every passing day; as health rights are being pushed ahead, the pressure too is getting even more vigorous. Health rights will also mean availability of good medicines at affordable prices. The government is not paying any attention to the irregularities that are prevalent in the drug industry. It is very important that for good health, the GATT provisions for medicines should be separated from other parts of the agreement, especially the provisions on intellectual property rights. The production, distribution and pricing of drugs should be separated from the GATT agreement. At the same time, a new policy for the indigenous drug industry should also be developed. All health related items, (equipment, chemicals drugs etc.), their production and distribution, will need the advantage of a mature policy.

A successful drug policy is centered upon the availability of necessary medicines and depends upon the proper use of these medicines. Market forces alone are insufficient to decide what drugs should be made and at what price they should sell. This requires some medical knowledge and basic morality. The World Health Congress has worked hard to accumulate a list of some 275 essential medicines. It is possible to treat all the known diseases with these drugs. The meaning of compilation of this list is that with its help it is possible to discourage the use of other non-essential drugs. For this reason it is important that the government starts buying these drugs and provides them to the common people. Price controls on essential drugs should be a necessary part of any mature health and drug policy. The government is considering this matter as a part of its new drug policy.

The Hathi Committee Report

According to the promise made in the "Health for all" program, the indigenous drug industry has to be encouraged further. The Hathi committee report has placed great emphasis on this matter. The recommendations of this committee are being implemented in a piecemeal fashion and not with the same sincerity. Now in some cases, the recommendations are being completely ignored. In the present circumstances, the indigenous drug industry needs encouragement. At the same time administration of price regulation that was a part of the drug policy of 1978 should

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be strengthened. However, with this background, the targets for the "Health for all" program should not be forgotten. The development of the indigenous drug industry, along with the multinational companies in the area of production and distribution of drugs has been unbalanced. This nation needs a new, uniform health and drug policy. Things are going from bad to worse in this matter. The Ministry for Chemicals and Fertilizers is trying to look in to the pricing of drugs and that too for reasons that don't make sense. The Indian drug industry can still withstand the competition from multinational companies. They need just the right atmosphere. Whatever development of the pharmaceutical industry has taken place in the public sector should also not be ignored. New investments should be made to modernize their technology. They retain a major part of their assets which should not be wasted.

IMF Tells Concern Over Delhi's Fiscal Deficit

94AS0486A Madras *THE HINDU* in English 6 Aug 94
p 13

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 5—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has told the Union Government that the proposed contraction of the fiscal deficit this year would "fall short of what was needed to ensure a sound budgetary position over the medium term."

Giving the gist of discussions that the IMF Directors had with Indian officials in April under Article IV of the Fund charter, the IMF annual report for 1994 says that the Directors have urged the authorities to return "quickly and decisively" to the path of fiscal adjustment. The Directors also noted that the fiscal stance embodied in the 1994-95 budget proposals would fall short of what was needed and that the quality of fiscal adjustment would also be important.

The Government proposes to restrict the fiscal deficit to six percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) during fiscal 1994-95, down from 7.3 percent recorded in the last financial year.

High interest rates

Apart from the widening deficit, the Fund has also expressed concern over the persistence of high domestic interest rates, the sluggishness of industrial recovery and the related surge in capital flows that had complicated monetary management and added to inflationary pressures.

Lower interest rate, the Fund has said, would promote the recovery of private investment, facilitate progress in financial sector reforms and to help strengthen bank portfolios. Consequently, the Fund has recommended that the remaining interest rate controls be eliminated and suggested reduction in the scope of priority sector credit and other burdens on financial intermediaries.

On overall reforms, the Fund has commented that progress has been slow in restructuring public enterprises and in increasing the flexibility of markets for labour and land. On the trade front, the Fund has said that the strong foreign exchange reserves offered an excellent opportunity for

rapid liberalisation. In this context, it was suggested that early action be taken to replace quantitative restrictions on consumer goods imports with appropriate tariffs.

Fiscal targets

Addressing presspersons on the occasion of the release of the annual report, a spokesman of the IMF, said here today that on the basis of information available till now, the Government was in line with the fiscal targets and there was considerable revenue buoyancy.

In response to another query, the spokesman said that India required to fulfil some minor conditions to conform to Article VIII of the IMF charter. These pertained to ending the Foreign Currency Non-Resident Account which guaranteed exchange risk coverage and restrictions on availability of foreign exchange for business travel, education and health purposes. Even in case of the non-resident, non-repatriable account, the restriction of non-repatriation of interest was a restrictive measure under Article VIII, the spokesman said.

The advantage of conforming to Article VIII the spokesman said, was that it displayed efficient economic management and that it sent out signals that the Government had confidence in managing the economy.

Human Rights Commission Scores Actions in Assam

94AS0488A Madras *THE HINDU* in English 5 Aug 94
p 14

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 4—The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has said that the rehabilitation package for surrendered militants of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) was "not being properly worked out and implemented."

In a report submitted to the Government on the situation in Assam, the NHRC said the "long-term answer to the needs of the State was to increase the resources for development and generate employment opportunities and create a climate of confidence to enable members of ULFA to surrender, rather than repeatedly seeking additional security forces for handling the law and order situation in the State."

A vast majority of people who met the Commission, both official and non-official, articulated a perceived sense of neglect and a growing feeling of alienation. They attributed emergence of extremism and violations of human rights to this "piled up feeling of alienation."

"Measures taken by the Union Government over a period of time for the economic development of the region have led a substantial number of people to believe that investments are made and projects taken up for implementation only as a consequence of public agitation," the report said.

According to the Commission, allegations of human rights violations where the Army had undertaken operations against militants were "strident." The NHRC said it had

sought a report from the Defence Ministry on the death of four youths in Tinsukia in February this year.

"The tenor of allegations against the Army has been that the operation by it has been leading to a greater degree of alienation of the population. In particular, it has also been alleged that provisions of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act were being misused," the report maintained.

"The Chief Minister (Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia) with whom this matter was discussed mentioned that by agreement operations are to be conducted jointly by a magistrate, civil police and the Army and further that in respect of the Tinsukia incident, the Army had perhaps undertaken the operations without involving the civil administration."

Accusations of high-handedness and torture by the State police were "also strident." Specific instances were cited by members of the Guwahati High Court Bar Association. "The impression sought to be conveyed to the Commission was that there was an undeclared suspension of human rights," the report said.

'Law Unto Themselves'

Opposition representatives and public leaders told the Commission that surrendered members of ULFA or "SULFA" had been harassing the people and had become a law unto themselves. Some complaints were received that SULFA members were resorting to extortion in connivance with the ruling party.

Members of SULFA denied before the Commission on March 19 their involvement in extortion, expressing fears of reprisals from ULFA. "The delegation of the ruling party which called on the Commission denied any link with SULFA; though popular feelings were strongly to the contrary," the report noted.

The NHRC also pointed to the existence of external factors in sustaining insurgency and said: "The Commission would presume that the Union Government is already seized of the situation."

The report noted that Assam had announced its decision to set up a State Human Rights Commission and a Human Rights Court.

Centrist Parties Form New Front in Parliament

94AS0485A Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Aug 94 p 15

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 5—Yet another centrist formation came into being today with the constitution of a "Democratic Front" in the Parliament comprising Janata Dal(G), Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Samajwadi Janata Party and several minor parties from the north east.

Announcing the formation of the Front, leader of the Janata Dal(G) Parliamentary Party, Mr. Chanderjit Yadav said it has 24 members in the Lok Sabha and six in the Rajya Sabha and would strive for better coordination among small parties and help them to function effectively in the Parliament.

The other members of the Front are Janata Dal(A) of Mr. Ram Sunder Das, Nagaland People's Council, Manipur People's Party and Indian People's Front (IPF).

Mr. Yadav said efforts are on to rope in Assam Gana Parishad. The Parishad leader, Mr. P.K. Mahanta had agreed in principle to join the Front but a formal decision would be announced in consultation with his party leaders.

The Janata Dal(G) president, Mr. George Fernandes, said he would also get in touch with the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], Telugu Desam and Samajwadi Party to broadbase the front.—UNI

Minister's Statement on Security Scam Panel

94AS0484A Madras THE HINDU in English 6 Aug 94 p 15

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 5—The following is the text of the statement of the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in Parliament today:

Mr. Chairman, Sir,

"The Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] set up to inquire into all aspects of the irregularities in securities trading submitted its report on 21 December 1993. The report was discussed in both Houses of Parliament on 29 and 30 December 1993 and the Government gave an assurance that the report would be examined carefully and all necessary action would be taken to remedy deficiencies in the system revealed by the report and to punish the guilty.

"We have gone through the committee's observations, conclusions and recommendations with the utmost care and an action taken report has been submitted. The JPC report itself lists 273 separate observations, conclusions and recommendations of which 107 are in the nature of specific recommendations.

"An impression has been created in some quarters that the Government has rejected the JPC report. The facts are quite the contrary. Hon'ble members will be happy to learn that of the 107 specific recommendations, the Government has fully accepted 87 recommendations and partially accepted 14 recommendations. The list of these 101 recommendations, and the action taken on them, is given in annexure-I of this statement.

"Hon'ble members will see from this list that the government has accepted almost all of the recommendations of the committee. There are only 6 recommendations on which the Government has differed with the views of the JPC. These are listed in annexure II and the reasons for the differences are also indicated. While Government genuinely believes that the positions it has taken on these recommendations are correct, Government is still open to further discussion and conviction on these.

"I would like to inform the House that the Government agrees with the views of the JPC that the irregularities in securities trading reveal both failures in various aspects of

the financial system including both internal control mechanisms of banks, as well as the supervisory system, and also a deliberate and criminal misuse of public funds with the aim of illegally siphoning of funds of banks by select brokers for speculative returns.

"The remedial actions taken by the government pursuant to 101 of the 107 recommendations of the JPC have greatly strengthened the system against the possibility of a recurrence of such irregularities in future. Hon'ble members will see from the information provided in annexure I and the 'Action Taken Report' that government has taken remedial action over a wide range of issues, including the internal control mechanism of the banks, the system of bank auditing, the supervisory system of the Reserve Bank of India, the regulatory system in the capital markets and in the stock exchanges, the overall regulatory framework within which banks operate, and various aspects of the functioning of public sector units.

"I would like to assure hon'ble members on both sides of the House that the Government will act with determination to ensure full implementation of these corrective measures and as a result our financial system will emerge from this crisis much stronger than it has ever been.

Action against officials

"On the matter of accountability, the Action Taken Report details the steps that have been taken to identify and punish those responsible, both officials and non-officials.

"The Government acted speedily to terminate the services of four senior bank personnel who were government appointees namely Shri K. Margabanthu, CMD [Chairman, Managing Director], UCO [United Commercial Bank] Bank, Shri V. Mahadevan, managing director, State Bank of India, Shri R.S. Pai, executive director, Syndicate Bank and Shri M. Gopalakrishnaiah, executive director, Bank of Maharashtra, chairman, National Housing Bank (Sri M.I. Pherwani) resigned, chairman, State Bank of India, (Shri M.N. Goiporia) was asked to proceed on leave immediately after the irregularities came to light.

"Departmental action has been initiated, following the prescribed procedure, against 97 officers of public sector banks and financial institutions. These include persons at senior levels.

"Prosecution for criminal offences has been entrusted to the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] which has registered 48 cases of which charge sheets have been filed in 11 cases. The details of these cases and the stage of investigation in each case are given in the Action Taken Report at Si. No. 121. The Government will make every effort to expedite the investigations and prosecution of these cases.

Income tax investigations of persons suspected of illegally siphoning money are continuing. Forty-one prosecution complaints have been filed against persons/companies in scam related cases. If the ongoing investigations reveal the involvement or culpability of more individuals/companies, certainly prosecution and other legal action will be taken against them.

"The Reserve Bank of India has initiated penal action against banks involved in irregularities, including foreign banks.

"Following the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee the issue of tracing the end use of the funds illegally siphoned from the banks is being looked into by an inter-departmental committee under the chairmanship of the custodian appointed under the Special Court Act. The committee has submitted an interim report and is continuing its work. The Government is giving full support to this committee so that it can complete its task as soon as possible. Further action will be taken as necessary on the basis of this report and the findings of the ongoing CBI investigations.

"As regards the observations/conclusions of the JPC other than specific recommendations referred to above, the Government agrees with most of the JPC's findings with some exceptions. The Joint Parliamentary Committee in its conclusions has stated that the Ministry of Finance failed to anticipate the problem, respond to it purposefully when it surfaced, or manage its consequences.

"The JPC has also made certain observations on the role of the Finance Minister, the then Minister of State for Revenue and the then Minister for Petroleum. I would like to assure hon'ble members that I have given the report of the JPC the most careful and respectful consideration and I share the anguish of JPC members the fact that irregularities of this magnitude could have been committed.

"It is, however, my sincere view that the Government was not negligent in either anticipating the problem or responding to it after it surfaced. Detailed responses on the role of the Finance Ministry and the Finance Minister are given in the Government's reply to item 207 and 239 of the Action Taken Report. The response of the Government on the role of the then Minister of State for Revenue is given in the reply to item 255. The response on the role of the then Minister for Petroleum is given in the reply to item 140.

"The Action Taken Report has thus given both the recommendations/observations of the JPC and the response of the Ministry/Minister concerned. Constructive responsibility always rests with the Government and we have never disowned that responsibility.

"I understand that some hon'ble members have objected to some words such as "unwarranted" and "unfair" which appear at certain points in the Action Taken Report. I would like to assure the House that it was never our intention to show any disrespect to the Joint Parliamentary Committee. If these words convey such an impression, I have no hesitation in requesting you to treat them as withdrawn. I am really sorry for this lapse which is entirely unintentional.

"In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation for the valuable work done by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and the guidance which their recommendations have given to the urgent task

of reform of the financial system. As hon'ble members are aware, our Government from the outset recognised the weaknesses which had developed in our financial system over several years and gave high priority to the need to reform both the banking system and the capital markets.

"This process began almost immediately after the Government assumed office and was accelerated by the weaknesses that were revealed by the securities irregularities. The reform of the financial system has been greatly helped by the painstaking work of the committee and the comprehensive recommendations made by them, most of which have been accepted by the Government. The process of reform of the financial system is an ongoing process," and the report of the committee will continue to provide guidance for the future directions of the reform.

"I would like to take this opportunity to make an earnest appeal to all hon'ble members to debate and discuss the Action Taken Report as well as this statement. Government seeks the views of hon'ble members in this regard. I appeal to hon'ble members to help in redeeming the promise made when the JPC was first set up by Parliament."—UNI

Impact, Avoidance of Caste-Based Politics Viewed

94AS0433A Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi
6 Aug 94 p 6

[Article by Arun Shouri: Ultimately: How Can Politics Be Saved From Casteism?]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Only twice in the last fifty years have we witnessed some one taking a stand against mainstream ideology. The first such instance was when Rajaji, [Mr. Rajagopalachari] along with the Swatantra Party, took on the powerful ideology of socialism. A similar act of courage was when the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] took on secularism. However it is possible that these are just exceptions. Even BJP itself is a good example. When socialism was in vogue, moving to the extreme, it tried to portray itself as the Gandhian socialist party. Today casteism is rampant and the BJP is trying very hard to be known as "me too Mandal" [For the uplift of the backward castes] party. It is trying as hard as the Congress party.

Two things are very clear about our political parties; their weakness and complete lack of imagination. The more these parties have to depend upon their ability and worthiness, the more they depend upon caste appeal for the favor of voters. They neither have the imagination to suggest an alternate solution nor do they possess the self confidence to accept what someone else has proposed. Therefore they all behave as if they are all made from the same mold. Since Congress socialism was adopted by different parties in different forms as their own, similarly Congress has adopted Mandal as its own, this only proves the same thing. What the BJP has learned as a lesson from defeat in the last legislative elections also proves a similar proposition. Many voters who would have come out for the party did not show up because they found that despite their claims to the contrary, this party was not very different from other

parties. However the lesson the party has learned is exactly the opposite—they have decided that they will be even more like the other parties and they also will be pro-Mandal.

Politicians and political parties greatly affect the character of other institutions like the civil service, the justice system etc... However, these institutions are not in a condition to stop the change from taking them in one direction or the other. Their internal culture makes them even more negative. Up till now civil service went by the definition that elected officials are the real representatives of the people and therefore whatever they decide must happen. Courts provide us with [Decisions about] minor points of the laws, but this very emphasis on details makes them slaves of contemporary fashions. From time to time they do pronounce some things right and others wrong. As we noticed about its decision regarding reservation quotas, it has posted some warning signs and defined some limits. In one important matter it has forcefully defied the politicians by setting constitutional limits that the executive cannot overturn. However, in all other matters, the effect of its decisions has been to prove objective what is currently fashionable. In the case of reservations, these judgments are an excellent example of their habitual pattern. I shall tackle these habits with examples later. Right now I shall mention only one fact about reservations; it has examined many important facts and arguments. Although the decision that was handed down can certainly meet our wishes and demands, it left its implementation open to many test cases. This decision was such that it left even the best of those connected with the justice system feeling that it is no use going to the court for such matters. However, more on this matter, later.

For reasons and matters relating to reservation dependent politics, which can improve upon the final outcome, we should look outside these institutions. What are these matters?

To start with, although the politicians and intellectuals allege all beneficiaries of reservations to be in one group, in truth the reality is far from that. Since casteism is the reigning ideology, each group is likely to experience increased tensions and squabbles. The latest gainers under the reservation system "Other backward classes" are land holders while traditional scheduled castes and tribes are landless laborers. Among tribals, there are many who are (even now) being vacated from lands occupied by them. Even the Mandal Commission itself has acknowledged the fact that these backward castes are the very castes who are responsible for beating and killing of untouchables. Recent killings in Uttar Pradesh provide us with a warning about this truth under a new headline. Similarly the tensions between the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] and the Samajwadi Party [SP] provide us a warning about the coming bad news. The divisions between beneficiaries of newly acquired reservation status, and those established from earlier times are growing ever wider every day. This term "Other backward castes" is also far from monolithic. Decisively giving importance to one caste, leaves all others

dissatisfied, thinking that it is because of them that they are being left out. Notice the anger against the Yadavs [One of the backward castes] after four years of "Yadava rule" under the Laloo Prasad Yadava ministry. Remember the mass rally some months ago organized by the "Other backward castes," particularly Kurmis. This rally was not for reservations but it was directed against the Yadavas.

This time it looks like relief will appear from another corner. Casteist politics and caste administration are so thoroughly discredited that it is sure to fall into disrepute. Those people, in whose name and for whose benefit, they [leaders] had gained power, will also understand that rule by these leaders does not provide them freedom but it turns others against them. For example it did not take long for the Sikhs, who were all impressed by the divisive and shrill politics of [Sant Jarnail Singh] Bhindrawale to realize that. Even Muslims saw the results of the politics of Ali Miyan Shahabuddin Imam Bukhari. Laloo rule has produced a sense of fear among the non-Yadavs. But as institutions crumble and administration is destroyed even the Yadavas have started recognizing the bad results of these policies. The Mandal mess and the cynicism along with it is likely to open the eyes of the backward classes wide open. They would not have missed the fact that V.P. Singh and Sitaram Kesari both were insisting on reservation policy for medical colleges and hospitals. However, when it came to their own health, both went abroad for treatment. Even Laloo's operations are not helping Yadavas get any special respect but he is trying to help himself with more self aggrandizement.

Moreover, there are three things connected with this reservation politics that can affect the politics and its results. First, just as it happened in case of the "Garibi Hatao" [Remove Poverty] program, as it happened in case of the 23 percent reservations for the backward castes, similarly it can happen that our politicians will pass some resolutions and be satisfied with them. It is likely that, just as in case of scheduled tribes, mercifully their quota may never get filled. There is a second possibility: The role of state in our life will keep diminishing. The positions in the administration are filled by those who do not deserve it. This is not as bad as it could have been. That is because the qualified people who were hired earlier may still be able to run the administration in some way. Also the fact that the administration itself is so large that it can maintain its momentum even while being handicapped [By incapable officers]. The police administration in Punjab was full of Sikh communalism and was corrupt. However finally defense forces from other parts of the country were brought in and they were able to destroy the hold of the terrorists and establish peace in the Punjab.

There is a third possibility: In the next one or two decades, politics will be known as a low return, regressive field like a dying industry on its way out. The castes that are called backward but who have the push and power, will not look at it with as much enthusiasm. Just as Punjabis, especially Sikhs have lost the enthusiasm for defense that they used to have. This is a key to saving the country from the violent

consequences of national defense. It also points to a path of reconciliation. We should convert all these professions to quick yielding industries and ensure their prosperity. Especially in agriculture and specifically in those districts where the poison of caste politics is more virulent, the prosperity must be assured. That means in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. After all it was the industrialization and the green revolution that broke the attraction of Punjabis to defense as a way of making a living.

These possibilities, the possibilities that can save us in spite of our leadership, can be improved even further. I have talked only about these things because in a country as large and complex as ours, many things are going on simultaneously. Even the rise and fall do not happen in one straight line. Calamities come and go. This month it seemed everything was lost, "India will never be the same again". These were the [type of] editorials in December 1993 and in January 1994. However, those clouds disappeared. This is as if a large, mountain like rock was thrown in to the ocean, it made a big splash. However within a few seconds it looks as if nothing has happened.

It is true that I have talked only about those things that can provide relief. However, this relief is so drastic that it can kill the patient instead of eliminating the disease. the country needs some true nationalists and there is not much time left for that. The question left is only one and that is; after all what can we do to remove the bad effects of caste politics?

PAKISTAN

U.S. Said Mistaken in Opposing Islamic Movements

94AS0444D Karachi JANG in Urdu 15 Jul 94 p 3

[Article by Abdulqadir Hasan: "America and the Future of Islamic Movements"]

[Text] Mr. Munawwar Hasan, general secretary of Qazi Hussain's Jamaat-i Islami party (JI), gave in his press conference details of the problems that Islamic movements were facing. He said that whenever an Islamic movement tries to establish a government after being elected according to democratic principles, the Western nations that support democracy foil its efforts. The United States and its Western allies are afraid of the success of Islamic powers. In response to a question asking him about the effect of such perverse Western actions and means to fight them, he appropriately said that movements must be started against anti-Islamic forces in every part of the world, and the whole Islamic world should unite to counter them. The West is not in a position to respond to this hurricane everywhere. The situation in the United States is such that when it sent its troops to Somalia and some American soldiers were killed, its people not only forced the government to recall all those troops but also asked it to announce that it will not send armed forces to another country again. The brave Islamic forces will have no problem against a country whose people are that scared of death.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union and its end as a superpower, the U.S. imperialists and its allies were looking for a new enemy. After losing an equal enemy in Russia, the imperialist West is getting bored. Its stockpiles of weapons and military have become useless. This peaceful life does not suit belligerent Western nations, and they have started looking for another enemy. This search has not revealed any nation or power to replace Russia. However, there is an ideology that could challenge its civilization and culture, and that is Islam. Thus, the whole West is occupied against Islam after accusing it of all kind of crimes. The governments of Islamic countries are in its total control and some Islamic rulers are alive because of its [the West] protection. We have repeatedly seen U.S. imperialist activities in Pakistan and the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan is known as the "viceroy" here. The same situation, and in some cases worse, is seen in other Islamic countries. Since making [individual] Islamic countries enemies was not enough for U.S. hostile designs, it picked the whole Islamic world. Thus, wherever elections are won in the name of Islam now, the United States makes them ineffective through [controlling] the rulers there.

The Muslims have been brought together by modern communication media and also they have developed awareness of being Muslims due to enhanced religious feelings. Most of all, the anti-Islamic attitude of the United States has fired up the Islamic feelings in Muslims. Whenever the United States takes anti-Islamic actions in one country, it affects every Islamic nation, and by the wishes of Allah every Muslim expresses his anger at it. Rarely is there a Muslim who is not carrying the fire of hatred against the United States in his heart. Even the Islamic countries that depend for food and clothes on the United States, hate it. In addition, the U.S. attitude is so illogical, unjust, and inhuman that even Americans and other Western nations are expressing disgust with it. The atrocious U.S. policies in Bosnia, Algeria, and Turkey are being criticized even in the United States itself. Despite all this, since the United States is a major power, no country has the courage to cross it. However, defeating the spirit is a different thing. The Japanese fought a war against the United States and had to "eat" the atomic bomb and could not do anything after that. However, the fire of revenge is burning in every Japanese heart. Japan has become an economic superpower and has forced the United States into a historic trade deficit, and the situation of the dollar is so bad that it is falling even against the rupee. A great military and economic power like the United States will perhaps resolve this situation, however, the fact remains that a small nation with short statured people with national pride [Japan] has defeated the great United States by all means.

The United States is blinded by its own power and has caused great problems for itself by blocking the path of Islamic movements using peaceful and democratic means. History tells us that there is no reason for stopping Islamic movements. However, if the peaceful and democratic path is blocked, they will find other avenues. This process has started in Algeria. The most the United States can do is to buy the leaders of these movements or use other means to

stop them. However, all people cannot be satisfied by becoming mayors of Gaza or some other place. The Islamic feeling and pride that has born in the hearts of Muslims will continue to look for leadership and paths for moving forward. The rich Western powers used to high living standards will not be able to face the dervishes and the intrepid Muslims.

UN Human Rights Policies Said 'Tool of U.S.'

94AS0444C Karachi JANG in Urdu 30 Jul 94 p 3

[Article by Najamuddin Fakhri: "Human Rights and the United Nations"]

[Text] In many countries, including Pakistan, there is a lot of discussion about human rights these days. At the same time, the world is not unaware of how human rights are being violated everywhere.

In the constitutions and laws of European countries, the United States of America, and in the UN resolutions and bills, freedom, equality, respect for human life, and other human rights are presented in beautiful words. However, these are not practiced at all. Instead, most nations use their power and openly violate human rights in weaker nations. The whole world just watches. At present, the bestial people of Serbia are trampling on the UN resolutions and are committing genocide of unarmed citizens, including old men, children, and women, in an independent nation, Bosnia, which also is a member of the United Nations. These are not only war crimes but also serious and ugly crimes against humanity. We cannot see such an example even in the darkest period of history. The United Nations did not even allow this poor, dejected, and unfortunate nation to import weapons for its defense. Meanwhile, the merciless, malicious, and belligerent Serb government has the support of Russia and its allies which are providing it weapons, ammunition, and other kind of help. This country is determined to obliterate all Bosnians using these equipment of death. The United Nations has not taken any effective step against this inhuman genocide. The presence of the UN armed forces in Bosnia is also a staged drama. In other words, when it deals with the weak nations, the United Nations changes its standards.

After passing international laws on human rights, the United Nations has passed several resolutions about Kashmiris getting the right to self-determination. The people of Kashmir have been asking for this right for the last 47 years. In response to this demand, India is raging a bloody battle there. Just like in Bosnia, gang rapes are taking place there day and night and homes of unarmed citizens are set on fire and they are burned alive. Never does a day pass when we do not receive news about innocent Kashmiris being martyred.

Just like in Kashmir, Israel has been violating human rights in Palestine with U.S. support. However, the conscience of the United Nations is helpless or rather, dead. The readers will remember that after freedom was given to Palestine in May this year, the Israeli military was stationed at important crossroads between Palestine and Israel. The Israeli

military demonstrated their barbarism and killed 11 Palestinians and wounded more than a hundred. All this was done to make sure that Palestinians are given an opportunity to shed blood.

The truth is that the United Nations is a toy in the hands of the superpower that is the United States. It faithfully obeys the resolutions that are related to U.S. trade interests. You saw how this United Nations showed speed and efficiency in the Iraq affair and the resulting disorder is in front of us. The real reason for this contradiction in words and action is that there is no power behind human rights issues that could rise above group and national interests and protect the whole humanity. Let us take the issue of [protection of] human lives and property. The United Nations imposed extremely strict and unbearable restrictions on Libya because of the mere suspicion of its being involved in an airplane accident. However, this same United Nations did not take any action against the United States for blowing up an Iranian passenger airplane. Then, there is the Talmudic law of Jews which requires an Israeli to save only another Israeli's life. However, if a non-Israeli is drowning, the law does not think it appropriate to save him; instead, it is a national crime in their opinion. Since the Jewish religion is based on racial prejudice, they consider this law to be just. To other nations the attitude of the United States and its instrument—the United Nations—appears to follow the Talmudic laws. Opposed to this, the Koran has declared the murder of one person to be murder of humanity, and whoever saved one person's life has saved humanity. This is the basic difference in Allah's law that affects our behavior and nature. It respects and honors human life. Thus, a Muslim who has faith in his religion cannot even think about killing a human being without a reason, because he cannot escape punishment for this crime in both worlds!

NGOs Called 'Cancer, Tool of West'

94AS0447C Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 17 Jul 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Cancer of NGO's"]

[Text] One of the maneuvers the West is using to tighten its hold on the third world countries, especially Muslim countries, is the creation of non-government organizations known as NGOs. This device is the latest and the most dangerous move. It is dangerous because the apparent and the real reason for their existence is very different. On the outside, these organizations appear to be involved in various developmental tasks, however, most of these are tools of the West and are working for its interests. The people are fooled by their outward appearance and character. That is why these organizations have spawned like cancer in the whole third world during the last 7 to 8 years. These organizations have spread a network in Pakistan also and their achievements are praised in specific circles and groups. However, truth cannot be hidden. Just like in several other countries, the mysterious activities of these organizations are becoming a source of attention in Pakistan also. Thus, according to a news report, the government has appointed a high-powered committee to investigate the

affairs of these NGOs. The government took this step after reviewing information received from some important agencies. Some of these reports have declared the secret and mysterious activities of some NGOs to be dangerous to our national security. According to the reports of Pakistani intelligence agencies many NGOs ignore the government totally when it comes to receiving funds from other countries and do not share facts with the government. According to our information, these suspected NGOs are active in the northern region, however, their offices are in Islamabad. The heads of some of these organizations receive one lakh rupees a month as salary which is equal to the salaries of equivalent positions in developed countries. Obviously, such a huge salary in Pakistan cannot be just for the work performed.

The groups that are aware of the NGOs role have begun to admit that there are two kinds of NGOs—one involved in developmental work and the other involved in political activities. Still, there is no doubt that even the organizations involved in developmental work has the goal of promoting Western thought and interests. The Western nations are trying hard to limit the influence of the Islamic governments and their relations with the people. They believe that as long as this relationship exists, they cannot implement the changes they want to effect in the society. The government has made a wise decision in appointing a committee to investigate the NGOs. We hope that the government will not only investigate these organizations but also inform the people of the results. It is essential to make the people aware of the cancer of NGOs.

Bhutto Praised for Holding Talks With MQM

94AS0447A Karachi AMN in Urdu 23 Jul 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Efforts for Cooperation"]

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said that she was going to end all differences with the Mohajir Quami Movement [MQM] and provide it all the help that law permits. After consulting with the president on Thursday, she told the reporters that the government was trying to create an atmosphere of cooperation in the whole nation. While referring to the MQM, the prime minister said that she was coordinating this effort with help of the military.

It is a welcome development that the government is opening doors for negotiations in order to create harmony in the nation and trying to have agreement at every level. Sindh is the resident state of the ruling Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and this party was born here. Despite having majority support in Sindh, the PPP could not control the law and order situation here. Whenever it comes to power, rates of crime increase and the walls of discrimination in urban areas rise higher. This situation is created because the government, instead of creating a natural unity there, is looking for support among minority and non-represented forces. This artificial unity has resulted in the development of negative attitudes. Anti-social and criminal elements take advantage of this situation and create problems for the citizens. There is no other difference of opinion between the government and the MQM except over the division of

urban and rural areas. This division in the state has also resulted from the PPP actions, however, it insists that this issue should not be discussed. How can the MQM demand that the government implement the quota system it has approved for the rural and urban areas if the government refuses to discuss it? The prime minister has said that the MQM will be given all the support that laws permit and this support is available in the laws that the government itself has passed. One ray of hope is that these collaboration efforts are being made after taking the military into confidence. The Sindhis want to support the government despite the crises and problems of the past, because a weak government cannot improve the law and order situation. However, the government should also think about it.

MQM Leader Opposes U.S. Business in Karachi

94AS0444A Karachi JANG in Urdu 28 Jul 94 p 12

[News Report: "We Will Not Let Karachi Become an American Market—Afaq"]

[Text] Karachi (P.R.)—Afaq Ahmed, chairman of the Mohajir Quami Movement [MQM] (Haqeeqi), [said that] the continuous murders, destruction, and terrorism in Karachi were being spread to divert people's attention from shady investment conspiracies hatched by the United States. Average Sindhi citizens have expressed open concern and dislike for the hated U.S. conspiracies and the mysterious activities of U.S. diplomats. This has resulted in murders of political rivals and increase in religious and factional enmity resulting in innumerable murders and in looting incidents. This is geared to spread unrest in order to divert the attention of the people from U.S. investments, interfere in administrative and political affairs, and help the U.S. ambitions in this country. He said that a specific group is using the platform of religious organizations under the guise of protest demonstrations for spreading hatred toward the country and the military. This is very dangerous for the future of our nation and all the religious scholars should keep an eye on their people. They must plan a strategy so that no trouble-maker can use the religious garb for anti-national and instigatory activities. He said that he will not let the U.S. succeed in its effort to separate Karachi and make it a U.S. market.

MQM Control Over Coastline Seen Security Threat

94AS0446C Karachi TAKBEER in Urdu 21 Jul 94 p 11

[Article by Mehmood Ahmed Khan: "MQM Makes Landhi, Korangi Areas a Battle Zone"]

[Text] The people in other parts of the city cannot even imagine the situation that residents of Landhi and Korangi are facing these days. Landhi is under Mohajir Quami Movement [MQM]-Haqiqi control while Korangi, except for some areas, is under MQM-Altaf. During efforts to maintain and change control, there have been regular fights resulting in the deaths of over fifty members of the groups. The residents of both areas have to face fierce firings and terror day and night. In some areas, firing is so intense

during the whole night that people cannot even sleep. Some independent groups have joined this warfare to take advantage of this situation. Thus, the whole area is under reign of terror. Persons armed with Kalashnikovs are seen parading around in these areas. At times they do not hesitate in searching cars passing through their area. Groups of young men watch passing cars at crossings and corners and are prepared to take any kind of action. This situation is more serious in Area-36B, Bengali Para, Babri Colony, and Sharif Colony in Landhi and Korangi area as these areas are situated where Landhi and Korangi meet. The 36B area being part of Landhi is under MQM (Haqiqi). The members of MQM (Altaf) walk around fully armed in K Area, Sharif Colony, and Babri Colony. At times, persons from one area try to go to the area controlled by the other group and this results in firing of weapons. Members of both groups stay awake at night and patrol the area fearing attack from the other group. Because of the intensity of firing and fear, these areas are deserted early in the evening. People return home early and hide in their homes. In some affected areas, the number of worshippers in mosques has gone down to 5 to 7 people.

The question arises: Why is this situation [occurring] only in Landhi and Korangi and not in the whole city? If this is because MQM (Haqiqi) is present here, then why did not a similar situation develop in Lines Area and other parts of the city where MQM (Haqiqi) members are present? It appears that the MQM (Altaf) wants to control Korangi-Landhi at any cost. There are many reasons and interests behind this wish. The main and most important reason is that the coastal areas in Landhi and Korangi are next to settlements such as Ibrahim Haidri, Lath Basti, and Rae-dhi. This coastal strip has been used by smugglers for a long time. The locals here earn their living by fishing and catching shrimp. The richer residents of this areas have their own trollers and stay out fishing in them for several days. Some fisherman store fish and shrimp on a deserted island from where the Indian city Bombay is only about two hours away. Before the present operation and after it, many MQM members used this route for fleeing abroad. This coastal strip in Landhi and Korangi area is very important for the terrorists working for the MQM and foreign powers that want to break up Pakistan.

By controlling this coastal strip, the MQM will have a way to get out and the our enemies will have a way to get in. This route will be used for several functions. As for the people living in various settlements on this strip, most of them are definitely patriots. However, they are like subjects of a kingdom and the whole control is in the hands of some big landlords who can be bought and some of them are already under foreign control.

The question arises: How can we believe that the MQM is involved in anti-national conspiracies? This question has been answered by the founder of MQM (Haqiqi) and many of its original leaders including Tariq Muhajir. All of them have accused the MQM of being involved in anti-national activities and talking about dividing up the nation. They have called the riots in Sohrab Goth a conspiracy to have

Mohajirs fight Pathans. Secondly, it is a fact that despite the problems of the Mohajirs and MQM's relations with the Mohajirs, Altaf Hussain has always worked on one mission—separating Karachi from Pakistan. Although he recently talked about the atrocities being committed on Mohajirs, this is just to give this impression that he does not want separation and that he is being forced to [demand] separation of Karachi. When conspiracies such as the Hong Kong plan and Jinnah Pur were revealed in the past, the impression was given that the Mohajirs did not want to separate but were being forced to separate. It is true that the Mohajirs do not want a separate place, but its leadership is playing into the hands of anti-national elements.

Those who have heard Altaf Hussain's speeches during his early years know that he had used the facade of getting rights for the Mohajirs to break up Pakistan on the day when he had advised the people to sell their televisions to buy weapons and ammunition. He had made the Pakistani army his target in his next speech.

This impression was strengthened by Altaf Hussein's continuous residency in London. It appears that Altaf Hussein's presence in London is a part of this plan. Had he stayed here, there was a possibility that some specific circumstances, interests, or fears would have forced him to change his opinion. However, according to information received from London, he is playing into the hands of our enemies.

As for the question of separation of Karachi, we do not even have to explain that international powers are targeting Karachi for some reason. Karachi is like the blood that circulates in Pakistan's body. It is Karachi that provides revenue for most of Pakistan's budget. Pakistan without Karachi is like a body without a head. The resources necessary for our nuclear weapons program cannot be procured without Karachi. This is the city that provides employment to a major portion of Pakistan's population. This is the port to Pakistan. It is the city where a large number of professionals are prepared who then go abroad and earn huge amount in foreign exchange that is necessary for Pakistan's survival. This city is also the representative city of all ethnic groups in Pakistan or is a "mini Pakistan." That is why this city with so many problems, but more resources, is a thorn in the eyes of our enemies and anti-national elements are trying again and again to wring the neck of this city!

Afaq Ahmed, the leader of MQM (Haqiqi), has also expressed surprise that because of the situation in Sindh in general and Karachi in particular, countries like Japan, Korea, China, and Malaysia are not willing to invest in Karachi. Even the traders here are trying to take their investment and business out of Karachi. During the last few years, several industries, offices, and even government offices have moved from Karachi to different parts of the country. In this negative atmosphere for investment, some American companies are taking a great interest in Karachi. It is estimated that from the 59 U.S. companies that have invested in business in Pakistan, 48 have picked Karachi.

Such investment projects actually are used for attaining their goals under the pretext of coming here, bringing in their own people, doing research, and installing equipment. The contract for coal mines in Sindh has been given to an American company which has its own commandos to protect its staff.

The first fact is that the MQM wants to keep Landhi and Korangi area totally under its control in order to fight the PPP. It will help them have an easy access to Maler district and they can put pressure on the state government if needed. The MQM (Altaf) also wants to access the industrial district by controlling this area to receive millions of rupees from there. Additionally, the situation here is appropriate for MQM violent activities. The MQM (Altaf) also wants to remove the "thorn of the Haqiqi party" from its side to make sure that no other group is representing Mohajirs or can hinder its efforts, and challenge it [MQM-Altaf] for its terrorist activities. The reason for this is that the Haqiqi group has proved to be a greater supporter of Mohajirs and it still is supporting demands that the MQM-Altaf has given up. The MQM-Altaf earned notoriety in its war with [MQM]-Haqiqi and is accused of killing Mohajirs. In confrontation with other groups, it gives them the color of ethnic riots. That is why the MQM (Altaf) is consistently trying to control Landhi and Korangi and, according to some reports, has ordered to "take care of" Altaf Ahmed as soon as possible in order to wipe out the Haqiqi group at any cost.

The most important goal of this war is to establish sole control over this coastal strip. This will provide the MQM a route for getting reinforcement, weapons, support from exiles, and pave the way for external interference. We can estimate how Karachi and whole Pakistan can be immobilized from this coastal strip by the fact that although there are patriotic Mohajir settlements in Korangi and Landhi, it is the MQM leadership that controls the law and order situation there. MQM terrorists in large number are present here and the MQM leadership has relations with the leaders and smugglers on the coastal area. They have used these smugglers for fleeing abroad. Even when this strip is used just for procuring weapons, the MQM can use its members to raise more havoc than the Mukti Vahini group. If some trained terrorists are allowed to enter the city from here, they can destroy two very important oil refineries near the coast within a few minutes. Their destruction will not only destroy the transportation system in Pakistan but also our military's maneuverability. Even thinking about the riots that will result from paralyzing the urban life is scary.

The largest defense communication system in our country is also situated in Korangi Creek on this coastal strip. This could be destroyed in case of sabotage or an attack from the ocean side. In addition to these installations, the Karachi airport, P.F. Base, Pakistan Machine Tool Factory, Pakistan Steel, Qasim Port, and Keemari Port are all situated within these few kilometers area. It is important to mention in this context that the MQM (Altaf) has divided its party into two groups. One group is being directed by the leadership in Nine-Zero and is indirectly under Altaf Hussein's leadership. The second group is led by Umran

Farooq. Altaf Hussein is also directing this group indirectly. Salim Shehzad has fled after being involved in some serious criminal cases. Umran Farooq, however, is a kind of leader who is not only present in Karachi but also could appear in public. According to one report, he could not be arrested because he is hiding in the embassy of an important nation.

If Altaf Hussein makes excuses for not coming to Pakistan saying that he would be assassinated if he comes to Pakistan and the movement would be left leaderless, then what is Umran Farooq's excuse for not appearing in public?

The reason for Umran Farooq's remaining in the background is very clear. He is responsible for all the activities in Pakistan that Altaf Hussein used to manage before the operation. After the operation, the MQM could not openly participate in all these activities and there was also the fear that some secret agents had infiltrated the MQM. Therefore, a parallel administration under the direction of Umran Farooq was established for running secret activities. Thus, Altaf Hussein from abroad and Umran Farooq right here in our country are the two people who are playing important roles in implementing the plan to make Karachi another Hong Kong.

Government Kashmir Policy Seen Failure

94AS0444B Karachi JANG in Urdu 29 Jul 94 p 3

[Article by Agha Massud Hussain: "The Disappointing Failure of Our Foreign Policy"]

[Text] On 18th March of this year, I had published a column with the heading, "Has Pakistan Lost the Kashmir Case?" and had written in it, "The present government of Pakistan had loudly declared that Pakistan will continue moral, social, and diplomatic support for Kashmir's fight for freedom. The facts, however, are telling us a different story. This government should have said at the time of getting power that it cannot continue support for Kashmir's fight for freedom, because Pakistan cannot match India's defense forces." My above words have been validated by a briefing issued by our foreign secretary. It gave the clear impression that Pakistan has lost the Kashmir case, it is possible that this is only my impression. However, during the question and answer period, it was clear that the present government is suffering from serious confusion over Kashmir. The rulers are not aware of hard facts about this very important and sensitive issue. For example, when a senior reporter said that serious concern and agitation were felt by the Kashmiri mujahaddin because the Pakistani government has no clear policy about them, the foreign secretary was very surprised. He was amazed to hear that the freedom fighters in Kashmir were thinking about an independent Jammu and Kashmir state. The foreign secretary admitted in this briefing that India was trying to create discord among the freedom fighters and was succeeding to an extent. He also said that India will use the same strategy in Kashmir as it used in East Punjab where it put an end of the Sikh freedom struggle after 10 years of military and political actions. The talks of the foreign secretary also reveal that he was ready to hold talks with India under the

Shimla agreement, and if no talks are held between India and Pakistan, Pakistan will seek support, cooperation, and guidance from a third country to resolve this issue.

In addition to these comments by the foreign secretary, many members of the ruling party are openly saying that the only solution of the Kashmir problem is an independent and autonomous Kashmir or accepting the "third option," which actually is an American plan. Now this world power is not only trying to make the Kashmiris agree to it, but Pakistan People's Party [PPP] workers are also spreading this viewpoint in their private parties and their talks to diplomats during their foreign trips. All this is being done to sabotage the freedom fighters' campaign.

There is another interesting tidbit about Kashmir that I want to bring to the attention of my readers. Another senior journalist (whose support for the present government is as clear as day) said that most of the people who were deputed abroad to present the Kashmir issue do not speak or understand English well. They do not know the international protocol for holding such talks. Thus, our government's attitude toward Kashmir is clearly telling us that Pakistan's foreign policy on Kashmir has totally failed in presenting our case at the international level. This is a very deplorable situation. Meanwhile, India is presenting its stand at international forum very effectively and getting their support. Its stand is that trained Pakistani soldiers are fighting in occupied Kashmir and the Kashmiri people are helping them out of fear. In addition, India, by making the alleged Pakistani interference in East Punjab a basis [for presence of Indian troops in the region] is trying to give the impression that Pakistan is interfering in Kashmir. In this context, India, in order to get support of the West, especially the United States and Russia, has proposed that after India has liberated its economic system, it has become a major market where the West can invest without any fear. This investment will not only be protected but the whole profit can also be taken out of India. The United States has invested \$16 billion after receiving India's offer. Europe and Japan are also eager to invest in this country. The American investors have insisted to their government to improve its relations with India and not let the Kashmir issue influence these relations. In other words, economic interests can make one forget human rights. Similarly, our foreign policy has failed in those countries with which we had stable and strong relations and that are still interfering in our internal affairs.

When our government withdrew its resolution on Kashmir in the Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva, I had my first suspicion and had written that Pakistan had lost the Kashmir case. Now in this fast passing time, it appears that the blood of 40,000 suffering Kashmiris will be wasted. We have not only lost this war psychologically, but also lack any clear policy on this important issue. It is being said that the government is sending selected educated persons abroad to get support on the Kashmir issue at the international forum. However, this strategy perhaps will not be successful now. Our foreign minister had used some words while talking to the Indian ambassador giving the

impression that Pakistan really was involved in terrorism in Kashmir. How can the Kashmir issue be won in this raging fire of hypocrisy? The strength of any country's foreign policy is the unity of its people. In our country, neither the government and the opposition agree on important issue, nor the people. The boat of Pakistani foreign policy on Kashmir is surrounded by a hurricane and this hurricane was caused by our inefficiency and our tendency to be the "yes man" to a major power. Only Allah, who is very resourceful and merciful, can protect this boat in this hurricane. At the same time, our government should also take pity on the people. If it is unable to rule the nation, it should give the opportunity to someone else who can save the boat from this hurricane with the support and approval of Allah!

New Wave of Violence in Karachi Analyzed

94AS0446B Karachi AKHBAR-E-JEHAN in Urdu
7 Aug 94 p 7

[Editorial: "A Dangerous Trend"]

[Text] Karachi is engulfed in terrorism and murders once again and the people are suffering from fear and helplessness. This city has been taken over by terrorists and trouble-makers for a long time and the law and order situation is totally destroyed. Incidence of thefts, robberies, looting, murders, and highway robberies have been common for many years, however, the barbarism and abominations that was demonstrated between the nights of 22 and 23 July was never seen before. The terrorists threw a hand grenade on a motor coach which caused a lot of destruction. Six persons were killed and about 30 were wounded. Incidents of murder and arson are taking place regularly after this mishap and news of the loss of valuable lives are coming daily. The activities of these arsonists has accelerated as if they were looking for this opportunity. As we write these lines, the newspapers have printed news about firings and killing of seven persons. A ranger and an imam of a mosque are among the killed. In addition, there are several news items about terrorism and inhuman activities. The situation is so bad that in some areas in Karachi incidents of firing take place all night long. This has ruined the peace of mind of the people living in these areas. What is worse? The trouble-makers have attacked even police stations and mobile police units. That is why Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has taken notice of this situation and chaired a meeting of the federal cabinet in Karachi to discuss kidnapping, riots, scarcity of electric power, and the rapidly deteriorating law and order situation in Karachi. Ways and means to control this situation were also discussed. Mr. Khalid Ahmed Kharal, federal minister for information and broadcasting, gave details of the meeting of the federal cabinet to the news reporters and said that concern was expressed over the deteriorating law and order situation in this meeting. These incidents follow a pattern. He also said that the possibility of a foreign hand behind these incidents cannot be ruled out and that there are some proof of it. He said that these pieces of evidence cannot be revealed at this time, however, this will be done in a few days. However, it was not known what decisions were made

in this cabinet meeting and when these will be implemented. One distressing aspect of the recent violent incidents is that these point to religious factionalism. In the past, terrorism, violence, firing, and other incidents in Karachi were usually based on ethnic and group differences. Ethnic and gang violence is also extremely harmful to the country and must be eliminated at any cost, however, religious factionalism can be much more dangerous. In some areas and cities in Punjab the epidemic of religious factionalism has spread which result in repeated riots and bloodshed. Now, the ingredient of religious factionalism has entered the violent activities in Karachi also. This could be very dangerous and it is the duty of the government, administration, and the agencies responsible for implementing law and order to control this deadly trend immediately. Allah forbid, if this dangerous propensity continued to rise, our lives and law and order situation could be seriously jeopardized.

JI Amir Calls For Islamic Revolution

94AS0447D Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 21 Jul 94 p 1

[News Report: "Nation Needs Major Islamic Revolution—Qazi Hussein Ahmed"]

[Text] Lahore (Special Correspondent)—Qazi Hussein Ahmed, Amir of Jamaat-i-Islami [JI] Pakistan, said that this country needs a major Islamic revolution. He said this during the graduation and awards ceremony culminating in a 40-day class organized by Ulema Academy. Hussein Ahmed said that the Islamic world had to confront the new world order of the United States. "The United States wants to spread Western culture in the whole world without anyone challenging it. It does not want people to have faith in Islamic doctrines or be irritated when other important beliefs of Islamic teachings are ridiculed." Commenting on the increasing nudity and obscenity in Muslim society, he said that the United States wants to force on us a culture that is destroying families and homes there, made its younger generation wayward, and about which it is worried itself. He said that a nation that is not strong in quality and character cannot benefit from economic progress. The whole country degenerates and the citizens become each others' enemy. They have not adopted the tools of progress such as science, technology and modern subjects. He said that the Islamic world was backward because it is divided into 50 states, factionalism is rising, and the wrong kind of persons are ruling them. They have forgotten the holy teachings of the Quran which has pushed us to the brink of total destruction. Qazi Hussein Ahmed said that the influence of Allah was in every part of our lives. Those who separate politics from religion are agents of Satan. They do not want anyone to stop their satanic activities. The worshipers of evil are tired of Islamic forces. He asked why do not they tire of those who advise religious scholars to stay out of politics and of politicians who use religion for their success, attend various worship ceremonies, cheat people in the name of donations, and are sitting in [government] palaces? He said that the government protects those who deceive the people in the name of the Prophet. The people who live pious lives and follow the teachings of Allah's

prophet are told to stay out of politics so that the rulers can eat up our nation's money in the name of loans from banks and be free to loot the nation. Qazi Hussein Ahmed advised the students to make hard work a habit and use the time considering it a great gift and spend it in helping Islam and the people. He said that having power is important for spreading religion. Science, technology, industries, and trade are also power-producing. A poor and dependent nation cannot do much to honor religion, therefore, progress in every sphere is essential. Farid Ahmed Parachi, secretary of Ulema Academy, Mohammed Sayyed, Maulana Mir Mohammed Hussein, and some students in the graduating class also addressed the meeting. Qazi Hussein Ahmed handed out the degrees and awards.

Politics, Economy of Nation Seen Degenerating

94AS0446A Karachi AKHBAR-E-JEHAN In Urdu
24 Jul 94 p 7

[Editorial: "The Present Situation"]

[Text] No one is comfortable with the present political, social, and economic situation in our country. The present situation and developments can be called lamentable and serious. The political turmoil we have seen during the last few years is increasing instead of subsiding. The practice of opposing each other that our politicians have adopted should have abated with time. However, this is not happening; the situation is now becoming worse. Those who claim to lead the nation and the people and give themselves the title of "servant of the people" ignore the fundamental national problems and the problems of the people and are instead busy insulting one other. Everyone is occupied in a never-ending series of accusations and counter accusations and are calling their personal issues national politics. Both the government and the opposition are involved in it and their attitude is condemnable. Obviously, both groups have emerged after getting people's votes and the people had not voted so they [elected politicians] could fight the war of their own personal interests. As for our national economy, it cannot be measured by imports and exports but by the economic conditions and living standards of the people. The situation at present is that the upper class is continuing looting the national treasury. Loans worth billions of rupees are taken only to be written off or ignored. Opposed to this, the billions of poor in this country are suffering from the lack of basic human amenities. Employment opportunities for them are limited and their income is shrinking. Hundreds of thousands of these people do not even have a roof over their heads and their children do not have education facilities. Prices of commodities are so high that not only the poor but the middle class is wailing. Forget luxuries, prices of even daily essentials are rising beyond an average person's reach. Still, the persons in power keep saying that they have changed the lot of our people in such a little time. Allah knows what they mean by changing the situation,

however, the people see their economic situation deteriorating daily. The prices have risen even more after the latest budget. Now, our worry is further increased when we look at the social atmosphere in our country. This situation was limited to Sindh state in the past, however, the law and order situation in the whole nation is unappetizing now. The way the incidence of instigatory and terrorist activities is increasing has scared everyone. The cities that were known for peace and harmony at one time and where people used to walk fearlessly even at night are terrorized even during broad daylight. Thefts, robberies, looting, and even murders have become daily occurrences. Even revered places like mosques are not safe from terrorists. If you take a look at newspapers, you will read about bombs being thrown at people worshipping in mosques as well as news about other crimes. Such incidents have taken place in many large cities in the country. Karachi has proved to be especially unlucky in the area of law and order. The succession of murders and destruction that started here a long time ago does not appear to have stopped even after the presence of the army for over two years here. Still, incidents of terrorism are taking place. True, such violent activities stop for a few days, however, it has not been possible to stop them permanently. Incidents of terrorism have increased recently and arson of buildings and firing weapons blindly are also on the rise. Thus, valuable lives are lost daily and our national assets are being hurt. It is true that everyone is responsible for establishing peace, however, it is the responsibility of the government to protect life and property so that people can live without fear. Let us see when our government manages to rid the people of this atmosphere of terror. Those leaders who threaten long marches every other day and have made politics their profession also have this responsibility.

Campaign Against Secular Media Supported

94AS0447B Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 13 Jul 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Death to Secular Media"]

[Text] The Islami Jamiat-i-Tulba Pakistan has started a campaign called "Death to secular media." In addition to several other activities, the Jamiat held a march under the leadership of its president. Thousands of young men participated in it. The secular media as usual totally ignored this march, although it gives prominent coverage on the television to marches that are taken out over trifles and in which the families of government officials fashionably participate. The campaign started by the Jamiat may be a cry in the wilderness, it should become louder. This voice emerging amidst the turmoil of media war will become the most effective voice of the anti-imperialist forces. The Jamiat campaign to create awareness against the secular media is praiseworthy and should be called the first stone cast against the secular media.

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